

Denis Law's verdict on Man. Utd.

SHOOT!

25p

INCORPORATING
SOCCER
MONTHLY

14th MARCH, 1981

THE TROUBLE WITH GRAHAM RIX

Forest in Tokyo

Sixth Round F.A. Cup
Scottish Cup Fifth Round

VILLA v IPSWICH

-the title decider?



McDermott to stay at Liverpool!

Birmingham striker
Frank Worthington is
foiled by Manchester
United skipper Martin
Buchan (red shirt).

SHOOT view!

DALEY Thompson won the hearts of a nation when he clinched a gold medal at the Moscow Olympics last summer.

Maurice Hope brought glory to Britain in the same style by winning a World boxing title.

Roland Butcher's dashing batting for Middlesex helped fill Lord's last summer and persuade the England selectors to send him to the West Indies this winter.

Have England ever produced a finer table tennis player than the hard-hitting Desmond Douglas?

Apart from the fact that they are all winners, the common bond linking this elite group is that they are black and British.

They are lionised throughout the land. So why is it our black footballers enjoy no such pleasure?

A richly gifted crop of black players has exploded on the scene in recent years, headed by Viv Anderson, who broke down social barriers to become the first black player to win a full England cap.

Since then Laurie Cunningham has played for England and many other ebony skinned players have arrived to give pleasure to thousands.

Majestic

Garry Thompson and Danny Thomas, whose prodigious performances for Coventry have given the Highfield Road club a memorable season, have yet to celebrate their 20th birthdays; Garth Crooks' majestic goalscoring power has been vital to Tottenham's revival; Justin Fashanu is so good he is worth £2 million, according to Norwich; Cyrille Regis, Remi Moses and Brendon Batson are thrilling them at West Bromwich Albion; David Bennett's silken skills boost the 'new' Manchester City; and Terry Connor and Vince Hilaire have bright futures even if their clubs, Leeds United and Crystal Palace, are struggling.

The burden they share with black players in the lower Divisions is that they are not fully accepted by a cruel minority of soccer fans, and often singled out for abuse during matches.

There might be some explanation for the fans' disgraceful behaviour if the players were born in Zimbabwe or Jamaica. No such distances.

The birthplaces of most of them are as English as a Sunday roast. Worksop, Stoke, Manchester, Leeds and Forest Hill to name a few.

It's about time our football fans buried their misguided and small-minded prejudices.

They should remember that the greatest player to ever grace a football pitch was black.

So, to those sick fans who chant jungle noises whenever a black player takes possession of the ball, we offer two words:—

SHUT UP.

F.A. CUP QUARTER-FINALS

THE Quarter-Finals of the 100th F.A. Cup have all the ingredients that has made the competition the most famous domestic Cup tournament in the world. Many of the big guns have already been shot down, but Third Division Exeter City have ensured that there is still the chance of at least one David defeating Goliath.

"We've beaten The Lions in their Den, grounded The Magpies — now let's see if we can stop the cockerel crowing," said Exeter manager Brian Godfrey after his team's amazing 4-0 replay win over Newcastle in the last round.

Spurs manager Keith Burkinshaw has not hidden his anger that some people think Spurs are already as good as in the Semi's.



Exeter defenders Martyn Rogers and Lee Roberts salute their fans after a magnificent Cup defeat of Newcastle.

He is in the fortunate position of having real competition for first-team places, with not even World Cup winner Osvaldo Ardiles an automatic choice these days.

Even so, this is the tie the other Quarter-Finalists wanted. For Spurs, it is their 14th successive Cup tie in London over the past two seasons; it is still possible for them to win the Cup without leaving London, if you stretch the geography a little and say Wembley is in the capital. If Spurs and Ipswich are drawn together in the Semi-Finals, that tie could well be played at a London ground.

Spurs won the F.A. Cup in 1901, 1921 and 1961, as well as the League Cup in 1971, so 1981 could see more glory for them in the Year of the Cockerel, which happens to be the club's emblem.

Neutrals will be hoping Exeter can continue their incredible run. While the F.A. Cup has a glorious history of upsets, they usually stop at around the Sixth Round.

The match of the round must be Nottingham Forest's clash with Champions elect Ipswich Town. Brian Clough has a poor record in

Spurs v Exeter Nottm Forest v Ipswich Everton v Man. City Middlesbrough v Wolves

the F.A. Cup both as a player and a manager.

He is rebuilding the Forest side to meet the demands of the 80's, and youngsters such as Colin Walsh and Stuart Gray have responded magnificently.

Ipswich, though, are the in-form team who could yet end 1980/81 with the double. They've already beaten Forest twice in the League this season, although Forest are a better side now than they were then, with Trevor Francis fully fit and the younger players growing in stature with every game.

Forest have better preparation for this tie than they did for Bristol



HOME ADVANTAGE COULD BE DECISIVE

City in the Fifth Round, when they had a midweek trip to Tokyo. Ipswich, on the other hand, have been in France battling against Saint-Etienne in the UEFA Cup.

This is the sort of clash that may take two or even three attempts to resolve. One moment of inspiration... or one ghastly mistake. If there isn't a full house at the City Ground on Saturday then surely there never will be.

There is a good case for giving Everton the F.A. Cup if they overcome Manchester City. They are entitled to feel that someone from the F.A. doesn't like them, after draws against Arsenal, Liverpool and Southampton.

City manager John Bond is equally disappointed. "I thought we'd missed all the difficult ones, then, bang, we get the worst of what's left," he said.

Bond has worked wonders since taking over from Malcolm Allison earlier this season. Perhaps it would, however, be expecting too much for him to lead City to

Wembley after already climbing away from the relegation zone and coming within a whisker of the League Cup Final.

Everton know how important it is for them to win a trophy for their fans, who are sick of the success from the other side of Stanley Park. It's possible that Liverpool won't win anything this season (a dangerous prediction, though) while Everton, with three First Division scalps already to their credit at Goodison Park, may just be strong enough to edge out City by the odd goal.

The two dark horses of the Cup, Middlesbrough and Wolves, meet at Ayresome Park. Boro have one of the best home records in the League: Wolves one of the worst away records. The Teesiders have lost only once at home, while Wolves are still searching for the first victory on opponents' soil.

All of which means absolutely nothing in the Cup, of course. Despite indifferent form overall this season, Wolves have come good in 1981. Andy Gray is back

Ipswich striker Paul Mariner nets his side's decisive goal in their 2-0 defeat of Charlton in the last round.



SCOTTISH CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Celtic v East Stirling
Rangers v Hibernian
Dundee U v Motherwell
Morton v Clydebank

THE OLD FIRM WILL MARCH ON

CUP Holders Celtic are only 90 minutes away from sauntering casually into the Semi-Finals of the tournament . . . and manager Billy McNeill isn't exactly overwhelmed or delighted!

Celtic face part-time First Division outfit East Stirling at Parkhead and McNeill, looking for an injection of glamour, couldn't hide his disappointment when the draw was made.

"To be honest, we would have preferred a different draw," says McNeill. "So far we have played Berwick Rangers and Stirling Albion to get to this stage and a more exciting ballot would have given us a boost.

'Difficult'

"Any home tie has got to be a good one and First Division sides, as Berwick and Stirling have proved already, can make things difficult for you by playing well above themselves."

The Celtic players will have to ensure that complacency does not overtake confidence for East Stirling are determined to make

Celtic booking yet another Semi-Final place at Hampden.

There's an exciting and intriguing tie in prospect at Tannadice, where Dundee United meet Ally McLeod's Motherwell battlers. United boss Jim McLean will remind his skilful Premier Division outfit just how close they came to taking a tumble in the League Cup earlier this season at the hands of the same opponents.

On that occasion United survived a two-legged scare to take the game into extra-time and finally settle the issue. McLean and his players should have a smoother passage this time around after that earlier warning, but they will have to keep a careful watch on ex-Celt Brian McLaughlin, who was in devastating form against Dumbarton in the previous round.

Old foes John Greig (Rangers) and Bertie Auld (Hibs) come face to face again when their clubs meet

Rangers' leading scorer Colin McAdam adds to his season's tally with this goal against St. Johnstone.



things extremely tough for the holders.

"I was delighted when I heard the draw," says 'Shire boss Billy Lamont, who once conceded TEN goals to Celtic in a League Cup-tie at Parkhead over a decade ago.

"To be frank, the cash is needed at Firs Park and a meeting with Celtic is certainly a money-spinner for us. They won't have it easy . . . you can take that from me. They will have to work for anything they will get against us."

Lamont and his men are to be congratulated for fighting their way through to the Quarter-Finals, but surely that run will end at Parkhead with red-hot favourites

at Ibrox. Rangers were within ten seconds of losing to St Johnstone in the previous round while Hibs struggled to beat Falkirk 1-0 and also had midfielder Ally McLeod ordered off into the bargain.

Sparks are bound to fly at Ibrox, but when the smoke settles, Rangers should be through to the Semi-Finals.

In the remaining tie, Morton, conquerors of Aberdeen, play Clydebank at Cappielow and a flash of genius from Andy Ritchie, who scored the marvellous winning goal against The Dons, should be enough to take the Greenock men into the Semi-Finals.



Everton's Eamonn O'Keefe celebrates his winner against Southampton (above). Middlesbrough's Bosco Jankovic on target against Barnsley (below).

amongst the goals, while Norman Bell has proved to be an inspired substitute, just about the most thankless compliment in soccer.

Boro are a fine team these days, which few people seem to acknowledge. Strong at the back, inventive in midfield and decisive in front of goal, they may well hold one too many aces for Wolves, who although full of courage, are still prone to moments of madness at the back. Incidentally, this is Wolves' 25th Cup tie in the last two seasons.

In the Fifth Round, home advantage proved to be a decisive factor, with five of the eight Quarter-Finalists going through at the first time of asking.

This Saturday could see a similar record, although Forest and Ipswich may need to battle it out on neutral soil.



ANY team entering the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup must fancy their chances of getting to Wembley, even if they are from the lower reaches of the Football League.

In the past, several of these smaller fry have come within an ace of reaching the last pairing and some from the Second Division have gone on to win the Cup or appear in the Final.

Half a century ago, Third Division Exeter City, having disposed of Derby, Bury and Leeds, came up against the then-mighty Sunderland and, when they brought a 1-1 draw away from Roker, a place in the last four looked a distinct possibility for the West Country side.

The Wearsiders, however, triumphed 4-2 in the replay before what is still City's record attendance — nearly 21,000.

The previous season, another lower League club came away from the North-East with a hard-



Watford (light strip) caused the shock of the 1970 competition when they beat mighty Liverpool.

Second Division Champions, Sunderland, 1-0.

Palace were the fifth Third Division F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists and Bradford City, in the same season, became the third Fourth Division club to get through to the Quarter-Finals, where they lost 0-1 to Southampton from two Leagues above themselves and that year's Cup winners.

The previous year a titanic four-match struggle had been required to give Ipswich their passage into the last four at the expense of Leeds and Second Division Fulham also marched into the Semi-Finals via a 1-0 victory at Carlisle in the latter's only season in Division One.

A couple of big Sixth Round

Liverpool stung by The Hornets

fought Sixth Round draw against a team from the top flight.

Second Division Hull City held Newcastle 1-1, then put The Geordies out with a single goal at Boothferry Park.

In the same year that Exeter were doing their great deeds, 1931, ex-League team Southport had their best Cup run, beating Millwall, Blackpool and Bradford Park Avenue, before it terminated in a 1-9 Quarter-Final disaster at Everton.

One of the most sensational Sixth Round results occurred in 1937 when Millwall became the first Third Division Semi-Finalists by beating eventual League Champions, Manchester City, 2-0 at The Den.

Example

In the 1950's a trio of Third Division teams followed Millwall's example in reaching the last four.

In 1954 Port Vale did so by winning 1-0 against fellow-Third Divisioners Leyton Orient at Brisbane Road, a year later York City triumphed by the same score at Second Division Notts County and, in 1959, Norwich also overcame Second Division opponents — Sheffield United 3-2 away.

The 1963-64 Sixth Round was remarkable in that it contained four teams from outside the First Division.

One of these, Oxford United, in only their second season in the League, had made history by being drawn at home in all six of their ties and becoming the first Fourth Division side to reach the last eight.

They went down 1-2 to Second

Division Preston, but the shock of the Round was Swansea's 2-1 victory at Anfield over subsequent League Champions Liverpool. The Welsh team just avoided relegation to the Third Division at the end of that season — by a mere two points.

Six years later Liverpool were again the victims of a giant-killing

act in the Sixth Round when Watford beat them 1-0 at Vicarage Road. The Hornets, too, later just escaped the drop into Division Three.

History repeated itself in the case of Colchester's Cup exploits. Their fine 1948 sequence as a non-League club came to an end with a 0-5 hiding at Blackpool and, after beating Leeds in 1971, United, the second Fourth Division Quarter-Finalists in history, again crashed to a handful of goals — this time at Everton in the Sixth Round.

The 1975-76 Sixth Round featured four non-First Division teams. People were beginning to take the Wembley challenge of Malcolm Allison's Crystal Palace seriously after they had been to Roker Park and beaten eventual



Sixth Round Sensations



Crystal Palace striker Alan Whittle shoots the goal which gave his side victory over Sunderland in the 1976 Quarter-Finals.

POST-WAR LAST EIGHT FORM OF THE F.A. CUP QUARTER-FINALISTS

	WINNERS	BEATEN RUNNERS-UP	BEATEN SEMI-FINALISTS	QTR-FINALISTS
Tottenham	3	0	3	6
Man. City	2	1	0	2
Wolves	2	0	3	5
Everton	1	1	6	2
Nottim Forest	1	0	1	4
Ipswich Town	1	0	0	2
Middlesbrough	0	0	0	5
Exeter	0	0	0	1

scores worth mentioning are Spurs' 6-0 demolition of Birmingham in 1967 following a 0-0 draw at St. Andrews, and Ipswich gave notice that they were just finding the right form for their 1978 Cup triumph by trouncing Millwall 6-1 at The Den.

Nine Sixth Round ties have gone to three games, three of them involving Nottingham Forest, each of which they eventually lost.

In one of these, in 1974, Newcastle led Forest 4-3 but the F.A. ordered a replay because of a crowd invasion.

After a draw, Newcastle at last won through by 1-0 in the third match, both at Goodison Park. Forest were then in the Second Division and, in that same year, a couple of other promising Cup runs from outside the top 22 came to an end in the Sixth Round, Third Division Wrexham losing at Burnley and Bristol City from the Second having to give best to visitors Liverpool — both by a single goal.

"DO you, as a 'keeper, expect to be under additional pressure next season as a result of the League awarding three points for a win? And what do you think of the decision to allow Sunday soccer?"

Two very interesting questions in a letter from Tom Slyfield, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, among the selection I've chosen to answer in this week's column.

No, I don't, Tom, simply because I'm sure the addition of a "bonus point" for winning will not encourage teams to score more goals, which is the League's aim.

I applaud the authorities for recognising the need for more entertaining soccer, in order to attract back the fans who have become disenchanted by too much defensive play, but I feel they are wrong to place the emphasis on winning.

Teams should be rewarded for scoring goals!



Ray Clemence
TALKING
SOCCER

'POINTS FOR GOALS WOULD BOOST SOCCER'

We are probably going to see even more teams "shutting up shop" after scoring the first goal, particularly when playing away.

Teams are likely to attack if the extra point was given for scoring three goals at home, and say, two goals away.

Goals are what the game is all about — a football cliché that should be written in large letters in every manager's office as a reminder.

My job is to keep them out, but the crowd roar that greets a great save by me is several decibels lower than that which salutes a Kenny Dalglish special.

As for Sunday soccer, it could be something of a lifesaver for clubs in the lower Divisions. It's a day with far fewer counter attractions, when families can get together to go along.

Significant evidence that switching to soccer on Sunday can attract bigger crowds was provided by Darlington, who pulled six and a half thousand spectators for their game against Mansfield, compared to the normal two and a half on a Saturday.

Obviously some were attracted by the novelty, but only a minority of the extra four thousand.

The well-supported clubs, like Liverpool, will continue to prefer Saturdays.

One change I've always advocated — reducing the number of clubs in the First Division to ease the work load of players often involved in competing in several competitions — was not even discussed at the League meeting.

From a personal point of view I was disappointed, but I can sympathise with the adverse implications of such a change, namely the knock-on effect that would result in axeing teams throughout the other three Divisions as well.

"Do you follow a regular pre-match ritual?" asks Jean Kidd of Upminster, Essex — a question several other readers have put to me.

Although it's not superstition-ridden, like some players, I do things in the same order, mainly because they seldom vary.

Warming-up

I begin changing about three-quarters-of-an-hour before the kick-off. First I strip, then after strapping my ankles receive a rub-down to loosen up my muscles from Ronnie Moran and Joe Fagan, our trainers. I follow this with warming-up exercises before putting on my gear.

Undershirt, socks, boots and, just before we leave the dressing-room, shorts and 'keeper's jersey.

When we're playing away I'll step out on to the pitch and test its surface after my arrival to decide whether I'll wear boots with moulded rubber soles or conventional ones with screw-in studs.

David Johnson and Kenny Dalglish help me get the feel of the ball by firing in shots and crosses, with Kenny always shooting the ball past me into the net before we line-up for the kick-off.

That's one of his superstitions. "Do any former Liverpool stars ever call in at the club?" John Saun-

ders of Carlisle wants to know.

Not as many as you would imagine considering the important part Liverpool has played in their lives. Main reason is because they have left the district and put down roots elsewhere.

We often see Ian St. John, the great centre-forward of the 60's, when he drops in to do a piece for the TV programme he presents.

Then there's the stalwart who played behind him in defence, Ron Yeats. Ron has business interests in the Mersey area.

Ian Callaghan, due to depart to play for Norwegian club Soudifjord soon, often trains with us.

So does Chris Lawler now a player/manager in that Scandinavian country, when he comes home during their close season.

I often meet Willie Stevenson, who wore the number six shirt with distinction in the 60's, a superb golfer who needs no persuasion to turn out for charity or testimonial tournaments.

My appearances on Granada TV some Saturday nights has prompted a lot of mail, and this question from Sheila Tompkins of Stockport is typical: "Do you see yourself in the future as another Bob Wilson, the former Arsenal 'keeper, as presenter of a programme like his Football Focus?"

No disrespect to Bob, a friend of mine, but I don't like the idea of becoming a carbon copy of anyone. But, yes, I do relish the thought of being offered the chance to make a new career as a TV sports man.

I really enjoy my sessions with Elton Welsby, the Granada pre-



Kenny Dalglish heads home for Liverpool in their away game at Stoke.

sender, commenting on a match I've played in and also on others being screened.

Now for my thoughts on the F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals.

The top draw is obviously Nottingham Forest v Ipswich Town. The Suffolk side are in such tremendous form I can't see them being stopped.

Middlesbrough and Wolves are two dark horses I don't fancy for Wembley. I expect Boro, with home advantage, to win through.

Exeter have had a marvellous Cup run, which must come to a halt at White Hart Lane where Spurs are scoring so well lately.

Scrappy

Everton, our Mersey rivals who knocked us out in the Fourth Round, play Manchester City at Goodison Park. I saw Everton beat Southampton in the Fifth Round replay there in one of the most scrappy games I've seen.

Afterwards Denis Law, the radio commentator, cracked to me: "They've taken the ball to hospital."

As I see the tie, it's Everton's non-stop hustle and bustle v the superior style of a City side revitalised by new manager John Bond.

As Liverpool were due to play Manchester City in the League at Anfield, the club is looking to either bring forward a League game or arranging a friendly, possibly abroad.

In the event of no game, I expect to be at Goodison, helping Radio City in their coverage.

Ray Clemence

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1978 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Nottingham F. v. Liverpool

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Liverpool v. Borussia MGB

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1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Villa's Hat-trick

1976 UEFA CUP

Liverpool v. Bruges

1976 FA CUP FINAL

Super Saints!

1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Man. City v. Newcastle

1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND

Rangers v. Hearts

1975 F.A. CUP FINAL

Hail To The Hammers!

1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Viva The Villa!

1974 F.A. CUP FINAL

Liverpool's Cup

1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Wonderful Wolves!

1973 F.A. CUP FINAL

Sunderland's Cup

1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Spurs v. Norwich

1972 F.A. CUP FINAL

Leeds v. Arsenal

1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Salute to Stoke!

1971 F.A. CUP FINAL

Arsenal v. Liverpool

1971 EURO CUP WINNERS

Chelsea v. R. Madrid

1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Spurs v. Aston Villa

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Also col sound 200ft
*1976 Southampton 1, Man. Utd. 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
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Also col sound 200ft
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Also col sound 200ft
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Also col sound 200ft
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*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
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TERRY Curran, the Sheffield Wednesday striker, leads a good life these days. He is heralded as the undisputed star in South Yorkshire and in many quarters as one of the outstanding forwards in the Second Division.

On match days at Hillsborough, as the team takes to the field, the crowd joins in his record of "Singing the Blues" which blares from the loudspeakers. His fan club snapped up the first 1,000 copies within a few days and another run had to be made to meet the demand.

He will soon be opening a sports shop near the ground and later this year should see the publication of his book about his football path with Doncaster, Nottingham Forest, Derby, Southampton and Wednesday. It should make good reading because, like the managers for whom he has played — Brian Clough, Tommy Docherty, Lawrie McMenemy and Jack Charlton — he is forthright about his approach to football and the entertainment it should provide.

He is restless, searching for the recognition his skill deserves. He left Southampton because he felt his game was at a standstill. "I joined Wednesday to make a break," he said. "I knew I could play and I thought at the time that if I couldn't do exceptionally well in this country I would head for America."

"I've done well with Wednesday



RIGHT: In the recording studio, cutting his best-selling disc.

TERRY'S HAPPY SINGING THE BLUES

BELOW: On the football field, tormenting the Notts County defence this season.



in the Third (promotion and top scorer with 23 goals) and this season it's a compliment to be so closely marked by the opposition. I like it like that. You might not score so many goals, but you know that you are tying up the opposition and I like battling against a marker.

"I want to get back into the First Division. Not to prove to any former managers that I can still do it but to prove to myself, now that I've got the confidence to play like I knew I could, that I can do it at the highest level. You can put it down to cockiness or what you like, but to me it's the only way to play."

For Wednesday supporters, that determination is good news. "I'm under contract to Wednesday until the end of next season and there's no danger in both of us not getting our ambition to get back into the First," he insists.

Much has been made in the past of his comparatively mild misdemeanours. Today, wiser, he presents a more mature, likeable image, and few will argue with his ability and right to run at defences, often taking on three opponents and leaving room for his colleagues to score goals.

At Wednesday they love it. When he takes possession and

accelerates away, the excitement he generates is remarkable.

Terry, now on the threshold of a return to the big time, comes from a family of eight brothers born to miner John Curran and his wife Doris in the village of Kinsley, near Pontefract.

Just when he was making a name for himself with the village team it packed up and he stopped playing for two years! As soon as the team was reformed, he was noticed by Maurice Setters, then at Doncaster, and his career was launched.

Greyhounds

He plays an excellent game of squash and tennis, enjoys disco dancing and, when at Southampton, regularly went horse racing with team-mate Alan Ball. He loves dog racing, too, and owns four greyhounds and has a share in another greyhound with Andy McCulloch.

At 25 and at the mid-point of his playing career, Terry Curran is poised to make football headlines with Wednesday, whose manager and supporters understand and appreciate the exciting accent he gives to the game. His success in the next six or seven years, which let us hope he achieves here rather than abroad, could encourage others to emulate him and keep a sparkle in our football.

AN Irish Programme Exchange Club was recently formed. It's a non-commercial venture, which aims to help Irish collectors fill gaps in their collections and hopefully later to put on exhibitions. Yearly membership is £2 for adults and £1 for children under 14. Readers should write to the Secretary, Christy Fencon, c/o The YMCA Hall, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1, where the members meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

TRAIN HALTS

WATFORD's go-anywhere man Ray Train has settled down both on the field and off it. He has secured a regular role in the midfield section of Graham Taylor's team and made himself very much at home living in the south after spells with Walsall, Carlisle, Sunderland and Bolton.

Said Ray: "This is the first time I have lived in the south. I've never been homesick — I've never had time for one thing."

A player named 'JAWS'

WHERE have all the nicknames gone? Scottish footballers once delighted in giving their team-mates unusual nicknames.

George Young, the giant Rangers centre-half who played 53 times for Scotland in the late 1940's and 1950's, answered to the delightful nickname of "Corky."

Others included "Napper" Thomson, "Happy Feet" Napier, "Greeting" Bob McPhail, "Ma Ba" McKennan and "Daddler" Aitken.

Kilmarnock once had a centre forward known as "Bummer" Campbell. The Killie's 13-2 victory over Saltcoats in 1896 was a triumph for Campbell. One newspaper wrote: "The star of the show was international 'Bummer' Campbell, who scored no fewer than eight goals."

Nickname poser: Who was known as "Jaws" at Rangers? Answer: Tom Forsyth.



● Ossie Ardiles is plotting Exeter's downfall in the F.A. Cup Sixth Round on Saturday with the same care he exercises when enjoying his favourite hobby, chess. It is no secret that the midfield maestro's major ambition is to play in a Wembley Final for Tottenham.

TV boob costs Fox dearly

GOALKEEPER Peter Fox fell out of favour at Stoke City last season... and found himself in the third team!

Fox says: "I made a bad mistake in a game shown on television."

"I was dropped and put in the third team. Luckily I got my place back at Christmas 1979, and haven't looked back since."

Fox, 23, set a record by playing in goal for Sheffield Wednesday as a 15-year-old.

It was while on the Wednesday books that he spent a loan period down at West Ham.

"That was great. They were a brilliant club who really looked after their players. I even went to America for the summer to get some experience," admits Fox.

FORMER Manchester United goalkeeper Ray Wood, who spent seven years at Old Trafford, has been coaching in Abu Dhabi for the last three years.

Ray will always be remembered as the goalkeeper who was carried off at Wembley in the 1957 F.A. Cup Final, after being charged by Aston Villa forward Peter McParland. His place in goal was taken by Jackie Blanchflower and Villa went on to win the Cup with McParland getting both goals.

After a spell with Huddersfield Town, Ray left England and took on coaching in Cyprus, Greece and Kenya.

Now he coaches the Emirates Sports Club and, of course, comes into direct conflict with such as Don Revie, at the Al Nasr club in Dubai, and Frank O'Farrell, with the Al Shaab club in Sharjah.

'BUY ME'

pleads Alex Cropley

ALEX Cropley, Aston Villa's former Scottish international midfielder player, has given up any hope of reclaiming a place in the first team at Villa Park.

Cropley, 30, wishes it to be known that he is available to any club wanting his services.

"In the current climate, you have to consider any offer, even if it means a move to a lower Division," he says.

Cropley was shattered when talks with Oxford United broke down. The prospective deal fell through because there was too wide a gap between Cropley's wage demands and the figure Oxford were prepared to pay.

"That was fair enough," Cropley explains, "but I did not know the move had broken down until I read about it in the newspapers."

Cropley, the former Arsenal star, still has more than a year of his contract to run at Villa. Meanwhile, he hopes to impress clubs with his performances in Villa's reserve team.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



Tother Mutrie

IAN MUTRIE recently watched big brother Les make a successful move from the Northern League to full-time football with Hull City.

Now Ian, who plays for Ashington, could be about to follow him.

His form in Ashington's run in the F.A. Trophy impressed several managers and they are watching his progress closely.

Washington Diplomats are also keen, while top non-League clubs Nuneaton and Scarborough would like to sign him.

Les, who went to Hull from Blyth, has quickly settled in at Boothferry Park and scored his first goal for them in the surprise win at Exeter.

Briefly...

● Old connections come in very useful in soccer as Huddersfield Town boss, Mick Buxton, has discovered.

Buxton, the former Southend coach, contacted Birmingham City about the availability of Neil Freeman on loan when he ran into some injury trouble with his own 'keepers.

The link-up is that Buxton was Southend's coach when Freeman was also with the seaside club. Now Freeman is in the middle of a two month loan spell with Huddersfield.

● Highland League clubs could be the first in Scotland

to take a positive step towards a winter break.

Inverness Caley and Peterhead are proposing to the League's management committee that the 16-team League should be split into two sections with a winter break.

● Shamrock Rovers have helped out struggling Shelbourne by loaning them two of their players until the end of the season. Back to Tolka Park went former Shelbourne player Mick Gannon and central defender John Durke.

● Goalkeeper Jim Finnerty made his debut for Home Park in September, 1978.

Since then he has played 93 consecutive games for the

Amateurs. But his hopes of the 'ton' were dashed when manager Dave Bacuzzi decided that his injured hip needed a rest.

● Kevin Dickenson, an 18-year-old left-back who made his League debut for Charlton last May, will always be grateful for the help he received from Tottenham coach Peter Shreeves.

The Hackney-born youngster was on Tottenham's books before going to Charlton and reckons he progressed a lot under Shreeves' guidance.

● The Football League has approved Sondico goalkeeper gloves. It is the first time the League has endorsed gloves.

Thanks lads

COLIN MURPHY sold Mick Harford to Newcastle United for £180,000 — and took his players on a four day trip to Jersey as a reward.

The Lincoln City boss said: "The players deserved some reward from the deal because they had helped to develop Mick in the first place."

This is the first time a manager has given credit to his players in this way.

Hardly surprising then that Lincoln are strong promotion challengers in the Fourth Division.

Maxie's dead

MAXIE POTTS, who was the oldest surviving Cup Final player, has died at his home at Cheslyn Hay, Staffordshire, at the age of 92.

He would have received star treatment at the 100th Cup Final in May as dozens of Cup-Finalists gather to celebrate the centenary.

Maxie played for Wolves in the 1921 Final against Spurs. The London club won 1-0.

Police stop Hodgson

A FAMILIAR face stood on the terraces as Middlesbrough beat West Brom in the F.A. Cup.

David Hodgson, Middlesbrough's star striker who was forced to miss the game after being sent-off the previous week against Manchester City, joined the chanting masses behind a goal at Ayresome Park.

He saw his team-mates win 1-0 and was even stopped by a policeman as he tried to run on the field to join in the celebrations at the final whistle.

"It was tremendous to share the excitement with the supporters," said Hodgson afterwards.

Soccer man in the swim

HAROLD HASSALL, the former Huddersfield, Bolton and England player, has been appointed secretary of the Amateur Swimming Association.

He scored a brilliant debut goal for England against Scotland at Wembley in 1951, and also figured in the Bolton side so dramatically beaten 4-3 by Blackpool in the 1953 Cup Final.

For several years Harold has been an F.A. coach, and was on the FIFA Panel of coaches, but has now turned his attentions to swimming, another of the many sports in which he has always been interested.

Harold hoped at one time to go into football administration, but now his chance has come in another sport.

"It's a wonderful job, which will take me all over the world and I think the grounding I had in football will be of help to me in the new job. The only trouble is some of the swimming officials get a bit annoyed when people inevitably want to talk to me about football rather than swimming," he says.



Bradshaw defies critics

WHEN the League Cup holders, Wolves, were ousted from this season's competition at Cambridge United most of the blame was put on the shoulders of goalkeeper Paul Bradshaw.

Even he now admits that his future at Molineux was in doubt following certain remarks made by the Wolves management.

But, to his credit, Bradshaw refused to give way and fought his way back to such a level that he is currently enjoying his best spell at Molineux.

He said: "I had never experienced anything like it before. I just had to knuckle down and work my way back to form."

"Fortunately, I am now showing some of the consistency which earned me my caps at Under 21 level."

COOPER'S 'IMPROVING'

PAUL COOPER, Ipswich Town's stylish goalkeeper, believes he has still not reached his prime.

He is 27 and reckons it will be at least three years before his talents mature fully.

"Without wishing to seem blasé, it seems to be getting easier as I gain experience — although I accept I'm playing behind a fine team."

"I look around at the top goalkeepers like Peter Shilton, Ray Clemence, Jimmy Rimmer and Pat Jennings... they're all 30 or above."

CARL FRANCIS, 18-year-old winger with Birmingham, reckons he learned a lot from watching Laurie Cunningham.

"I always like to study skilful players, and Laurie was one of them," says Londoner Francis, who had spells at both Orient and Chelsea before going on to Birmingham's books in July, 1979, and signing professional a year later.

Cunningham was with Orient before moving to West Bromwich for £100,000 in March, 1977. The England international then moved on to Real Madrid for nearly £1m in June, 1979.

Scottish 'kids squad'

Goalkeepers: Andy Bruce (Rangers F.C.); Ronnie Sinclair (Nottingham Forest F.C.).

Defenders: Ronnie Coyle (Celtic F.C.); Gerry Doyle (Partick Thistle F.C.); Calum McReight (Heart of Midlothian F.C.); Richard Murphy (St. Mirren F.C.); David Rennie (Leicester City F.C.).

Midfield Players: Jimmy McKechnie (Nottingham Forest F.C.); Paul McStay (Celtic F.C.); Paul Nicholas (Celtic F.C.); Stewart Rae (Hibernian F.C.).

Forwards: Ally Dick (Schools' F.A.); Eric Ferguson (Rangers F.C.); David Gallaway (Schools' F.A.); John Robertson (Heart of Midlothian F.C.); John Sludden (Celtic F.C.).

Prosser's stage struck

THERE are plenty of sham "actors" in soccer. Now there is a real one.

Neil Prosser, 22-year-old forward given a free transfer by Bournemouth, is as good on stage as he is on grass.

He says: "I have won best actor awards for parts in local theatre and acting is probably my second ambition, but a long way behind football."

Neil scored the equalising goal for Harlow in a Third Round F.A. Cup tie in 1979-80. He has also had spells at Enfield and Hertford but is now struggling to rescue his career.

Back to school

ASTON VILLA players, Allan Evans, Des Bremner and Colin Gibson, have recently been back to "school" — planning for the day when their football careers come to an end.

They have been attending a business management course at Newtown, Birmingham, aimed at giving the players an insight into running a small business.

Allan Evans said: "As you get older, you suddenly realise you will not be playing football all your life, and you don't really have anything to fall back on."



Bell impresses

PRESTON are not having everything their own way in the Second Division, but that doesn't stop other clubs casting envious eyes at their players.

A number of clubs have been impressed with the midfield skills of Graham Bell (above), an £80,000 signing from Oldham in March, 1979. Mind you, when Don Revie was England manager he, too, was impressed by Bell, son of Tommy Bell, who played for Oldham as a full-back over 25 years ago.

The 25-year-old Bell was an amateur youth international before signing professional in December, 1973.

Meet Justin

At only 19, the powerful Norwich City and England Under-21 striker, Justin Fashanu, is set to become one of soccer's superstars of the 80's.

Justin is never out of the news these days for scoring spectacular goals which have made him one of the hottest properties in the English game.

Now SHOOT — with SodaStream — have pulled off a deal with a player many First Division managers would pay a fortune for.

It's all part of a great new competition coming soon in SHOOT.

SodaStream — makers of the super home fizzy drinks Justin loves — (they even developed a special raspberryyade flavour for him) have teamed up with the top football weekly.

Full details in SHOOT soon. But we can tell you fabulous prizes you can win will include a fantastic, all-expenses-paid, three-day footballing prize with Justin in London, with: private tour of the famous Wembley Stadium, coaching with professionals at a top London club, VIP 'meet the stars' reception, plus seats at this year's Charity Shield match — traditional curtain raiser to the new season. Plus there will be other prizes of super SodaStream fizzy drinks makers for runners-up.

Don't miss it!



Hereford's battle for survival

IN a game full of people clamouring for instant success, Frank Lord is an exception. He wants to do things the hard way.

Lord, 43, has done things the hard way all his life. His playing career took him to Rochdale, Crewe, Plymouth, Stockport and Blackburn — and then took in a mixture of coaching jobs in England, and seven years as a manager in South Africa.

Now he is boss of Hereford, and putting in long hours of effort

aimed at bringing the good times back to the little West country club.

Hereford hit the headlines with some incredible giant-killing acts when they were still a non-League club a decade ago. Then they were elected to the League, and raced to the Second Division in four years.

But that was where the success story ended. Two years later the club was back in the Fourth Division, and last season had to apply for re-election.

It was during that disastrous run that manager Mike Bailey moved to Charlton — on the same day that his assistant Bobby Gould teamed up with Geoff Hurst at Chelsea. That was when Lord, on holiday from South Africa, jumped at the chance to manage an English club for the first time.

What he found horrified him. "I looked around on my first day and wondered what on earth I had with me," he says.

"There was no discipline. I

wanted people who love the game, like I do. Instead, I have inherited a collection of players who all dreamed about being another Kevin Keegan, but wouldn't work like him.

"Within a couple of weeks I had two players in goal, and others were turning up for training only just able to stand after drinking sessions the night before."

Lord, a man of principle, decided on a clearout. Not all the players who went were among the bad boys. But all the bad boys were among the ones who went.

Turned Down

To prove he believes in Hereford's future, Lord turned down two 60,000 dollar a year offers to manage clubs in America.

"It was an easy decision to make. I've spent six months teaching my players to have principles. My first was that I had signed a three-year contract, and I was going to honour it.

"The game's already like a big Swoop Shop. Staying in the same place has got to be almost a gimmick.

"It is more important for me to be able to look at myself in the mirror every night. In the end that is all that counts for anyone."

The glory days for Hereford (light shirts) in a glamour F.A. Cup-tie at West Ham.



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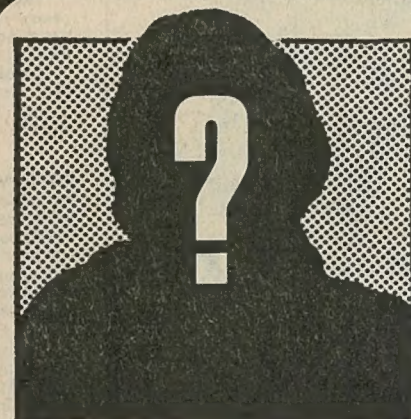
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SHOOT invited readers to send in questions to their favourite players. Here are the answers to some of your letters. United Kingdom readers whose letters are published will receive £2. Overseas readers, our special **SHOOT** T-shirt.



BEST GOAL

DAVID CROSS
(West Ham)

You have scored many great goals in your career, but which do you rate your best while playing for the Hammers?

Brian Boyle,
Chadwell Heath.

IT came in our 3-0 defeat of Cardiff City at Upton Park last season, Brian. The score was 0-0 at the time, when Alan Devonshire broke down the left wing and crossed into the penalty area. I was standing about 15 yards from the goal and realised there was no way I was going to score with a header from that distance. So I quickly altered my position and took off with an overhead kick. I connected with Alan's cross perfectly, and the ball flew past Cardiff 'keeper John Davies.



GIVE-AWAY GOAL

JIM McARTHUR
(Hibs)

What is the daftest goal you have conceded?

Janice McMillan,
Sandyhills, Glasgow.

THAT unfortunate moment came in a League Cup tie against Montrose at Links Park several years ago. I had been knocked unconscious earlier in the game and was still feeling a bit groggy when their full-back Les Barr — now playing for Dundee — punted a long ball downfield from all of 70 yards. I misjudged the bounce completely and the ball flew over my head into the net. To make matters even worse we lost the tie in extra-time.

MIDFIELD SWITCH

WAYNE CLARKE
(Wolves)

Why are you playing in midfield when you made the first team as a striker?

Clare Leonard,
Greatstone, Kent.

WOLVES manager John Barnwell believed I lacked consistent aggression playing up front. So he decided to move me into midfield where being constantly involved in a game would help me correct this part of my game.



NOT really, Graham. We were all aware that we faced a difficult task this season, but despite our poor League position I haven't found too many differences between the two Divisions. The one area where the First Division is harder is in defence. Second Division defences only started to close you down inside their own penalty area, but in the First the defenders come at you from about 40 yards out.

CUP DECIDER

EAMONN O'KEEFE
(Everton)

Which goal gave you the greater satisfaction — your spectacular 35-yard shot against Arsenal in the League game at Goodison or the goal you scored to clinch the F.A. Cup Fifth Round replay against Southampton?

Martin Elliott,
Wirral.

IT has to be the goal I netted against Southampton, Martin. That was the one which clinched a vital place in the last eight of the Cup, while the goal against Arsenal counted for nothing in the end as they came back to win 2-1. Obviously it was very satisfying to beat a 'keeper of Pat Jennings' calibre from such a distance, but it was the kind of shot which could just as easily have landed on the terraces



TOUGHEST DEFENDER

BRIAN KIDD (Bolton)

Who is the most difficult opponent you have faced and do you think Bolton will be making a return to the First Division next season?

Neil Settle,
Bolton

THAT'S a difficult one to answer, Neil. I can't really nominate any one defender, because defences are so well organised nowadays that you are often playing against three or four opponents rather than just the one marker. Inconsistency has been our main problem at Wanderers this season, but we have had some encouraging results, and I can assure you that everyone at Burnden Park will be doing their utmost to bring First Division football back to our famous club.

CELTIC FOR ME

JAIMIE DOYLE
(Partick Thistle)

If you didn't play for Partick Thistle which club would you like to perform with?

Carol Rankin,
Hardgate, Dunbartonshire.

CELTIC... no doubt about it. I was born and brought up not that far from Parkhead and they were always my boyhood idols. They have a great reputation for being an entertaining, attacking team and after playing against them I can tell you that it was true. Thankfully, our new manager Peter Cormack also has Partick Thistle playing in such a manner these days.

DIVISIONAL DIFFERENCES

KEVIN ARNOTT
(Sunderland)

Have you found the First Division more difficult to play in than you imagined when you helped Sunderland to promotion last season?

Graham Strong,
Warwick.

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GRAHAM PADDON
Norwich City



SHOOT!

In 1883, the workers at Singer's cycle factory in the Midlands got together and founded a football team.

Fifteen years later, they changed the name from Singers F.C. to Coventry City — the club of which TV's Headmaster of Soccer Education, Jimmy Hill, is now chairman.

But don't mention it to J.H., but in all those 98 years Coventry have never played in a major Cup Final.

A sparkling run in this season's League Cup began to show a real glimmer of light towards that end — but in neither Cup before had they ever progressed beyond the Quarter-Finals, and defeats by West Ham and Spurs within five days have ended their hopes of glory once again.

Including Coventry, only four of the present 22 First Division clubs have yet to win one of the three major domestic trophies — the League, F.A. Cup, or League Cup.

The others are Middlesbrough — though they have one small and unusual claim to fame in that they are the only League club today to have won the old F.A. Amateur Cup — and comparative newcomers Crystal Palace and Brighton.

The table alongside summarises what the others have won — with First Division pacesetters Ipswich looking pretty hungry for honours with only one League title and one F.A. Cup win.

So often, of late, Bobby Robson's lively lads have promised so much only to achieve so little, but this season they must surely add something to their meagre tally to date.

And it is interesting to note that Leeds — undoubtedly the team of the 80's — have precious little to show for it.

Of this season's top clubs, it can be seen that Liverpool's overall tally is heavily weighted in

	FOOTBALL F.A. LEAGUE		
	LEAGUE	CUP	CUP
ARSENAL	8	5	0
ASTON VILLA	6	7	3
BIRMINGHAM	0	0	1
BRIGHTON	0	0	0
COVENTRY	0	0	0
CRYSTAL PALACE	0	0	0
EVERTON	7	3	0
IPSWICH	1	1	0
LEEDS	2	1	1
LEICESTER	0	0	1
LIVERPOOL	12	2	0
MAN. CITY	2	4	2
MAN. UNITED	7	4	0
MIDDLESBROUGH	0	0	0
NORWICH	0	0	1
NOTTM. FOREST	1	2	2
SOUTHAMPTON	0	1	0
STOKE	0	0	1
SUNDERLAND	6	2	0
TOTTENHAM	2	5	2
WEST BROMWICH	1	5	1
WOLVES	3	4	2

Division, alongside Portsmouth who, and this since the War, have also chalked up two League triumphs on the trot.

And even the Fourth Division can boast two former F.A. Cup winners. Bury twice (their 6-0 defeat of Derby in 1903 still being the record Final score, with their 4-0 beating of Southampton three years earlier running it close) and Bradford City.

Which just goes to show how things, and times, can change.

Both ways, too, Aston Villa, for all their proud old-time record, were in the Third Division less than a decade ago. And Ipswich hadn't even seen the first light of First Division day all that much earlier — with Liverpool playing alongside them in the Second.

And you won't find three more likely-looking clubs around this season.

The accompanying table summarises the top domestic honours won by each of the current 22 First Division clubs.

Aston Villa lead the table with 16 major trophy successes to their credit, and could well make it 17 by the end of the season.

And Middlesbrough will be anxious to put an end to their barren spell with a long overdue success in this season's F.A. Cup competition.

THE TROPHY HUNTERS...

clubs still searching for their first major honour

favour of the League title — with a record of 12 wins to only a couple of F.A. Cup successes.

On the other hand, Aston Villa, even though most of their triumphs have been in the dim-and-distant past, have a pretty even "spread" of six League titles, a record seven F.A. Cup wins, with a record three League Cup triumphs for good measure.

The current Second Division can boast half a dozen past League Champions — Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday with four successes apiece; Blackburn, Derby, and Preston all with two; and Chelsea.

Also, nearly half of them have at some time won the F.A. Cup — Blackburn and Newcastle six times each; Bolton four; Sheffield Wednesday and West Ham three; Preston twice; and Cardiff, Chelsea, Derby, and Notts County.

Chelsea and Q.P.R. have also won the League Cup.

For the rest, however, nothing of any real consequence.

Remarkable

Even those two Welsh up-and-comers of recent times, Wrexham and Swans, lack anything to show bar the Welsh Cup — even though the former have taken that particular trophy a remarkable 21 times.

But with all due respect to that long-established trophy, usually the bulk of opposition hasn't been exactly awe-inspiring.

Inevitably, lower down the League's social scale, the majority of clubs still lack a major triumph — other than, perhaps, the odd Divisional success.

But although Liverpool may, probably have other ideas this season, so far only a couple of clubs have ever won the League Championship three years in succession.

One, of course, is Arsenal. Yet the other, Huddersfield, now find themselves in the Third



Brighton (dark shorts) are one of four First Division sides without a major success to their credit.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £10 for the Star Letter — £4 for every other published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from David Rowson of Harrogate, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

MORE POLICE NEEDED

★ THE death of Jeremy Burton, a Leeds United supporter, outside White Hart Lane, Tottenham, was the latest sickening outbreak of football hooliganism. Many people can see no plausible solution to the problem, but adequate police protection for away supporters is crucial.

As a Leeds United supporter who travelled to Tottenham I was appalled at the level of policing that I witnessed.

Upon arrival at the coach parking site there were two policemen and they simply instructed us to proceed to the ground.

We were then faced with a complicated walk to the ground along back streets and uncertain of the route.

Fortunately, a coach-load of Leeds supporters we had passed had waited for us and we walked down to the ground in a group of about 70, which ensured a safe journey to the turnstiles.

After the game we were amazed to see the gates opened immediately and a police officer in the street was announcing that there would be no police escort.

As the previous year there had been an attack on the police escort of Leeds fans and running battles, this was a ridiculous state of affairs.

The large contingent of Leeds fans refused to move because of the numbers of Spurs fans waiting in the street and eventually the police were forced to escort us to the coaches.

The tragic death of Jeremy Burton could possibly have been avoided if all Leeds United supporters had been escorted to the ground as well.

● It would definitely have been avoided if all the fans behaved like decent human beings.



Bryan Robson in action for England against Norway.



Sexton out

FOLLOWING the disastrous "nothingness" of the present season, in which Manchester United have again failed to do anything but avoid worries of relegation, the time has surely come to get rid of Dave Sexton.

The man is a complete failure, and even has difficulty conducting a decent television interview; his retiring nature is, I feel, having a disastrous effect on the fortunes of the greatest club in Britain, reducing the club to a shadow of its former greatness.

The gates at Old Trafford are falling alarmingly, and the club is no longer linked with the best in English soccer.

There is a wealth of talent of Old Trafford, and the recent lack of success is very disturbing, for the club should be challenging for all the top honours in both the League and Europe.

Another manager is needed to revitalise the club, having a flair and drive to reform Manchester United, and bring the glory days back to the greatest football club ever founded.

NICK BONNER,
CHURCH CROOKHAM.

● A year ago United were runners-up in the League, but a year is a long time in football. Injuries haven't helped United who, whether they think it fair or not, are judged by higher standards than just about any other club. "Get rid of Sexton?" That's harsh.

What about skill?

YOU can hardly open a newspaper or soccer magazine nowadays without reading: "Who will replace Dave Watson and Shilton/Clemence?"

I'm sure that Ron Greenwood has found his man, he's Phil Thompson. In England's next game he will continue to use Bryan Robson as a sweeper and play Thompson as a stopper.

I have always thought that what England really missed was a sweeper who could make dangerous runs from the back, and after watching England's game against Norway I was convinced — neither of the central defenders threatened any danger in front of our goal, even though Norway were defending nearly all the time.

I don't understand why there is a question about who will replace Shilton/Clemence. They have at least seven years left at the top.

It isn't strange that there are so few really top-class players in soccer today. Take the interviews SHOOT does with the English managers.

Every time there is a question about if they have some promising players they're saying, for example: "We have some players here who are really deter-

mined, and especially Mr X. He is so strong and is a hell of fighter, he'll never let you down, he always gives 100 per cent."

They'll never mention his ball-skill. Why can managers today not get into their heads that it is a player with ball-skill people want to see? If they want to see people running or fighting they should go and watch Steve Ovett or Alan Minter.

YNGVE FLISEN,
NORWAY

● Liverpool and Forest's domination of the European Cup must prove something.

Clubs must wise up

IT is no wonder attendances are dropping in the English League this season, the drive being served up by the players is diabolical.

Very few teams have showed any ability to play the game. The rest seem content to settle on past achievements, i.e. Man. United, Liverpool, Forest, Leeds, Everton and Arsenal.

These teams are playing incredibly defensive football, with 61 draws in 172 games.

Until these big name teams wise up and start producing the goods then the game will continue in a state of decline.

A word of congratulations are due for Villa, Ipswich, Spurs and Southampton for their record of nearly two goals a game.

It is this sort of play the other teams need to adopt if football is to regain its position as the greatest sport in the country.

PETER GREENE,
HOLYWOOD.

● It's good to see Ipswich and Villa being rewarded for their open style of play. Other sides please take note.

New anthem for Scots

I AM writing about the National Anthem which Scotland has or, should I say, hasn't.

It's disgraceful that a nation like Scotland hasn't her own National Anthem. It's a slap in the face to have to listen to God Save the Queen whenever a Scottish international team plays.

Wales have their own rousing anthem which rallies the entire Welsh crowd. How can the deadly dull God Save the Queen inspire a Scottish team, especially when playing away from home?

I completely sympathise with all the Scottish fans who keep up continual whistling and booing throughout God Save the Queen when it is played before a match.

We have a variety of suitable candidates for an anthem. I suggest Scotland the Brave or Flower of Scotland, although some might think Scots Wha Hae is better suited.

I wonder if other Scottish readers agree?

JAMIE BELL,
DRUMNADROCHIT.

● So that's why Scotland do so badly away from home.

Pen-Pals

I AM an Everton fan and would like a pen-friend aged between 14 and 17. My other hobbies include tennis and volleyball.

KIMMO SALO,
KYARINTIC 5A1,
26130 RAUMA 13,
FINLAND.

I AM a 16-year-old football fan who lives in Sweden, and want to correspond with some Liverpool supporters.

MARTIN HJARTSTAM,
IRISVAGEN 24,
S-43400 KUNGSBACKA,
SWEDEN.

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Top 16

Is it right that, during the War, England scored eight goals a time in successive games against Wales and Scotland within a few weeks?

MOHAMED DIVEKAR,
TANZANIA

● Certainly is, Mohamed. At Wembley, on 25th September, 1943, England beat Wales 8-3 — and then, at Manchester City's Maine Road on 16th October, walloped Scotland 8-0.

Incidentally, the all-powerful England team of that era scored half a dozen times in their next game, too — beating Scotland 6-2 at Wembley on 19th February, 1944.

Unfortunately for England — being wartime — those hefty wins don't count in the official records.

Low Champs

What is lowest number of points with which the Football League title has been won?

ANDREW SMITH,
DARWEN

● Well, Andrew, in 1890-91 Everton finished up as Champs with only 29 points.

But, in those bygone days, they only played 22 games a season — and I imagine you really mean for a normal modern 42-match programme.

In that case, the all-time low is a mere 52 points shared by three League Champions — Sheffield Wednesday (1928-29), Arsenal (1937-38), and Chelsea (1954-55).

First at Wembley

Who scored the very first goal at Wembley?

WILLIAM ATTCHISON,
PETERSFIELD

● It was David Jack — later to be the subject of the first-ever five-figure transfer-fee when he moved to Arsenal for £10,890 in 1928 — who popped that one home in the first F.A. Cup Final to be staged there, William.

He did the trick for Bolton against West Ham within two minutes of the kick-off of that historic 1923 game.

SHORT PASSES

● Manchester United's record League scorer in a season is Dennis Viollet (32 goals in Div. One in 1959-60).

(DEREK MATHESON, Stornoway)

● Carlisle's record League victory is 8-0 (v. Hartlepool on 1st September, 1928; and v. Scunthorpe on 25th December, 1952).

(MICHAEL RAYSON, Carlisle)

● Aston Villa are the record winners of both the F.A. Cup (seven times), and the League Cup (three times).

(DANNY MATLOCK, South Croydon)

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'BIG ALEX-

IT'S getting near Player of the Year time again and while the football writers in Scotland are still some way from deciding their man of the moment, we players have already registered our votes for our own awards.

I took a long time deciding, especially for the young player prize, simply because I was forbidden from voting for the man who will probably win it by a street.

That is Celtic's Charlie Nicholas, but the Players' Union ruling on that is you cannot vote for someone from your own club.

So I plumped for Andy Watson of Aberdeen, who has had a fine season in The Dons' midfield. He was

Tartan Talk
DANNY MCGRAIN



United... Graeme Payne, Paul Hegarty and most of all Paul Sturrock.

Sturrock is a very under-rated man who gets vital goals at vital times for United, with few more important than the couple he notched in the League Cup Final win over city rivals Dundee at Dens Park.

I was discussing with a sports-

My Player of the Year'

playing well anyway, but he has taken on the responsibility which was heaped on his young shoulders because of the injury to Gordon Strachan very well indeed.

John MacDonald of Rangers came into my reckoning too, but he has been established for some time.

Other good young players who will win votes are Peter Shields of Hearts, who has done so well in a struggling side and the Morton trio of Joe McLaughlin, Jim Tolmie and John McNeil.

Regular

St Mirren's Alan Logan is a fine young player too, but he hasn't really had a regular place in The Saints' first team.

In fact the added pressures of the Premier Division have meant that there haven't been all that many new young faces breaking through.

But what of the main award... the Players' Player of the Season?

My vote there went to Alex McLeish, again of Aberdeen, and a team-mate of mine in the Scotland defence. Big Alex, one of the nice fellows of the game, has done well in the bid by Aberdeen to retain the title — which of course as we at Celtic know they will not do — and forms such a devastating partnership with Willie Miller.

The other three players I fancied this season all come from Dundee

writer friend the other day the pros and cons of the Scottish Football Writers Association Player of the Year award, and the one given by the players.

He argued that writers were more qualified to vote because they saw more games and more teams rather than just one side a week.

But I countered that you really get to know how good a guy is when you face him on the pitch, something that my sportswriting gentlemen of the Press never do. And remember, in the Premier Division we play teams four times a season.

Mind you, before I go any further I must add that I was dead chuffed to win the Writers' Player of the Year award a couple of years ago... and indeed I wouldn't mind it again some time!

See you in two weeks.

Danny McGrain

TARTAN TALK
FROM RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE
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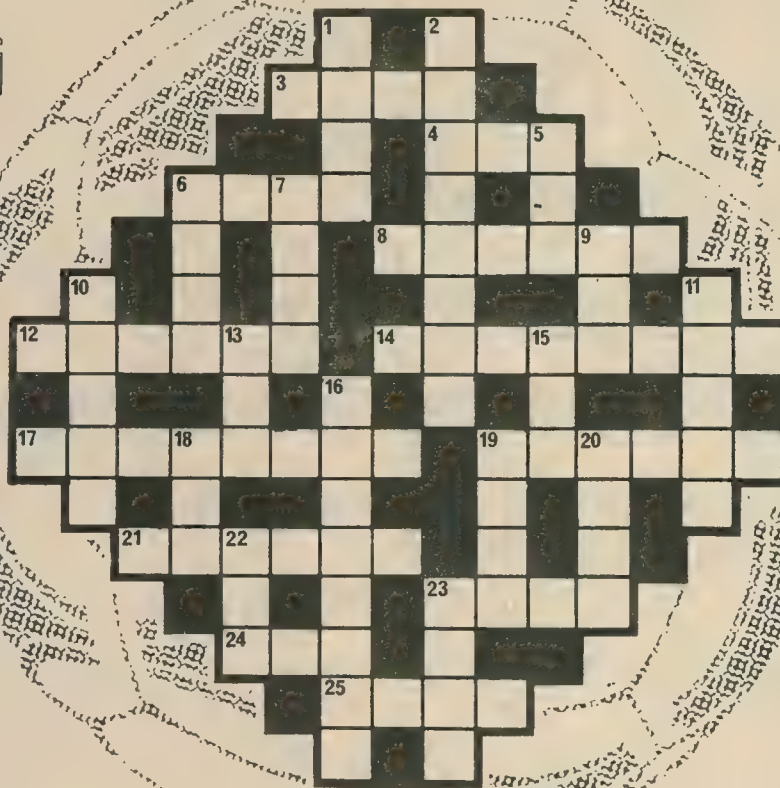
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

- (3) Nickname of Peterborough United. (4)
 (4) Mick McGu--- of Norwich City. (3)
 (6) John ---, WBA defender. (4)
 (8) Ron ---, famous ex-player and a former manager of Norwich. (6)
 (12) Dave ---, Manchester United manager. (6)
 (14) Steve ---, Spurs captain. (8)
 (17) Irish club, or type of poem! (8)
 (19) Edgar ---, ground of Hereford United. (6)
 (21) Bryan ---, WBA midfield player. (6)
 (23) Have unsteady, swinging motion. (4)
 (24) New England --- Men, NASL club. (3)
 (25) John ---, Spurs defender. (4)

DOWN:

- (1) Dennis ---, Chelsea defender. (4)
 (2) Frans ---, Ipswich midfielder player. (8)
 (5) Reading play at --- Park. (3)
 (6) Alan ---, Luton midfield player. (4)
 (7) Millwall are known as The ---s. (4)
 (9) --d- Ritchie, Morton striker. (3)
 (10) Cyrille ---, WBA striker. (5)
 (11) Steve ---, Manchester City midfielder man. (5)
 (13) If Derby, Everton & Crewe give BOW; what do Aldershot, Oldham & Newport give? (3)
 (15) Groove in the surface of the pitch. (3)
 (16) Bobby ---, Manchester City defender. (8)
 (18) John Gr---ry, Brighton defender. (3)
 (19) Gary ---, Aston Villa striker. (4)
 (20) Depend with confidence. (4)
 (22) Wager. (3)
 (23) Foot covering. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 29

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Two youngsters destined for the top

MICK Hollifield, Wolves' promising 19-year-old left-back, has two main ambitions — to represent England at full international level and to play at Wembley in an F.A. Cup Final.

"But like any other footballer, those aims are just dreams at the moment," says the knowledgeable Stockton-on-Tees born player. "I just hope that they come to reality one day. I'll just have to see what the future holds."

It certainly looks bright for the blond Hollifield, who came into the Wolves first team on November 8th in a 2-2 draw against Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

"It was a selection out of the blue," he says. "Derek Parkin, Colin Brazier and Geoff Palmer had all worn the number three shirt, but Derek broke a toe and Geoff had a couple of bruised ribs."

"I was next in line, yet I didn't expect to be called up. I was shocked more than anything."

Hollifield, once a foundry worker, was spotted by a Wolves scout whilst playing for his local youth club in the Stockton and District Under 18's League.

"I got time off work and came to Molineux for a week's trial," he says. "I enjoyed it and after about six months the club asked me to sign apprentice forms. The following year they signed me as a professional."

"I didn't think I was going to

are always severely punished.

"Sometimes the pressure gets to you, but I try to stay calm and not let things upset me. Mind you, being in a dangerous position in the League, there's going to be extra pressure to get results and it might start to tell. I hope it doesn't because so far I'm loving it."

"When I first came to Wolves they used to swap me about, mainly between sweeper and left midfield. Then they started trying me at left-back."

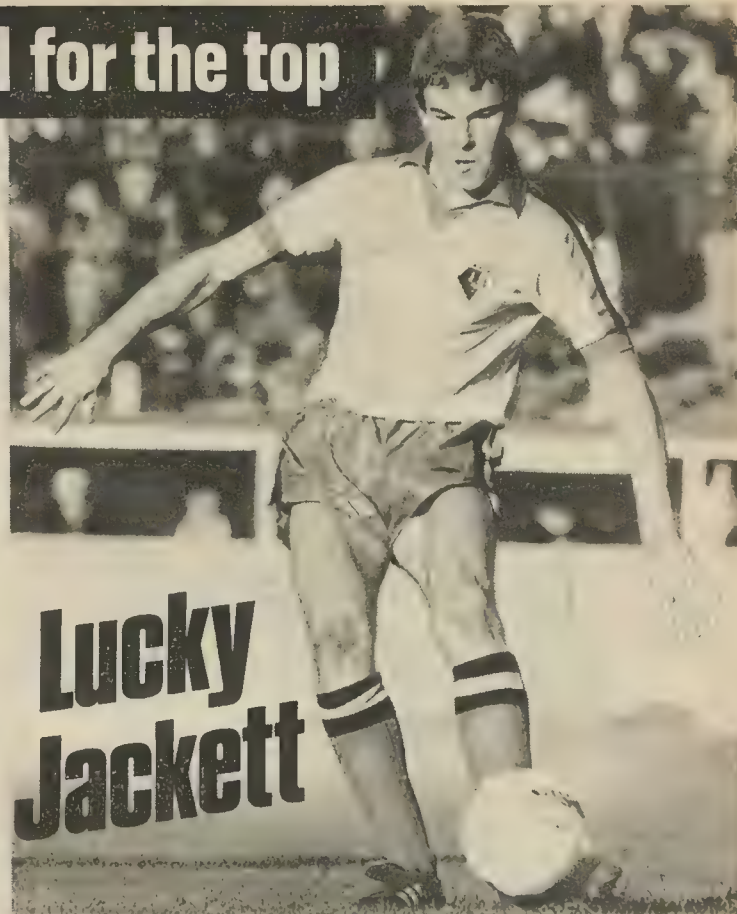
'Better'

"Eventually the manager decided that this was my best position. He kept me there all the time in the Central League so I could get to know the position better and what would be expected from me."

Hollifield, a natural left footer, is the kind of player who makes the ball do the work.

"I like to get forward," he says, "but I'm not one of your flying full-backs. My strength lies in my passing ability and the long ball forward is my main asset."

"The management team of John Barnwell and Richie Barker have treated me fairly. They've shown confidence in me by playing me. I just hope that I can repay them and achieve at least one of my ambitions by helping Wolves to Wembley this season."



Lucky Jackett

WATFORD's Kenny Jackett is set to become one of the soaraway stars of British football. He has charged from teenage reserve to the Wales World Cup reckoning within six months — "one of the finest prospects I've seen," says Wales manager Mike England.

Jackett's boss at Vicarage Road, Graham Taylor, backs up that verdict every inch of the way... but sounds a warning as well. "Ken's problem now is coming to terms with everything that has happened to him."

"As well as breaking into Second Division football, he can hardly have missed reading the speculation about big clubs watching his progress; now he has shot on to the brink of World Cup football after winning his first Under-21 cap earlier this season."

"It's exciting for him and for us — but I hope that I am not producing outstanding young players for a developing club just so the rich and mighty can move in."

If this son of a Swansea-born former professional — his father, Frank, was a wing-half for Orient and Watford — takes his chances for Wales as eagerly as he grabbed them at Vicarage Road, he could be playing in the World Cup Finals next year.

"I was Watford's substitute for the first game of this season when our left-back, Steve Harrison, had to go off through injury after 20 minutes. As luck would have it, that is one of my positions," says Jackett.

Luck came his way too, a few weeks later. Just as Harrison recovered, there was a vacancy in central defence with Ian Bolton also sustaining a bad injury. "That is my other first choice position, so the manager just moved me along

the back-four," explains Ken.

Graham Taylor believes that Jackett also has a vital contribution to make in midfield. "Since Ian Bolton's return in the middle of February, Kenny has moved forward," says Watford's enterprising manager of his multi-talented discovery who was awarded his first selection in the senior Wales squad for a friendly against Eire.

"I put him in the team for the final match of last season but, frankly, it didn't mean much," says Taylor. "It is something that a lot of clubs do at the tail end of a long season. There was never any doubt over Ken's ability or his long term prospects — but everything took off from that point."

'Justified'

"It frequently happens with young players that they go away at the end of the season and return completely altered. That is exactly what happened with Kenny. He came on our pre-season tour of Devon and produced the kind of form which justified me making him substitute for our opening match. Everything has happened from there."

Jackett is bidding for a Wales spot at the most exciting time that the land of his father has known for a long time. A six points out of six start in their World Cup qualifying matches gives Wales a tremendous chance of qualifying for the Finals.

"It was my Dad and Tom Walley, a former Wales international, who is now a coach at Watford, who headed a lot of people advising me to declare myself Welsh," says Ken. "They made the point that my career would move along that much faster — and I reckon they were right."

Shocked Hollifield

make it because nobody came in for me when I was at school. I just used to play week in week out and I struck lucky."

Hollifield's breeding ground was a school field outside his North-East home. "We played there most evenings," he says. "Just little games. I stayed interested and kept it going."

"I used to watch Middlesbrough and I've still got a soft spot for the Ayresome Park club. But after they won promotion to the First Division that coincided with my playing football on a Saturday afternoon, so I stopped watching. I preferred playing."

"There'll certainly be no favours on Saturday when we travel to Ayresome for our F.A. Cup Quarter-Final tie."

"I had a quiet start to the season and during the first couple of Central League games I wasn't playing well. Suddenly I hit a purple patch and I haven't looked back since I came into the first team."

"The biggest difference I've found is that the First Division is more demanding for concentration and the pace is far quicker."

"You have to be on your toes for the full 90 minutes. Any mistakes



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New era for Houston

FORMER Scotland Under-23 international striker Bobby Houston once dreamed of playing in the green and white hoops of Celtic.

But today he finds himself wearing the blue and white hoops of Morton and jokes: "Well, it's close enough, I suppose. They look the same in black and white photographs!"

Houston, who readily admits Celtic were his pin-up team when he was a youngster staying in the giant council housing estate of Castlemilk in Glasgow, moved from Kilmarnock to Morton this season and says: "This transfer should see a new era in my career."

"I recently turned 29 and it's now up to me to show some consistency to boss Benny Rooney. It's always nice to read and hear people saying you are a good player, but if you don't have consistency then you are letting yourself, the club, the manager and the fans down."

"Moving to Morton should help my game and I don't mean that to sound unkind to Kilmarnock, where I enjoyed playing for the club and got on very well with the fans."

"But Kilmarnock were struggling to stave off relegation and it's always difficult to provide entertainment in such crucial circumstances."

"Morton, on the other hand, have consolidated their place in the Premier Division and are now building on that foundation."

"I know how ambitious Mr Rooney is to do well with Morton. He has said that we have the class

and the potential to win a top honour within the next two years and I wouldn't argue with that."

"Remember, I used to play alongside the boss when we were both with Partick Thistle. He used to have a right old go at me in those days if he thought I wasn't contributing enough."

"Still, it's nice to know that he was willing to part with something like £25,000 to take me to Cappielow. He must think I've got something to offer!"

"I know a fee of £25,000 means very little in this day and age, but I don't dismiss it. The important thing is that Morton paid that cash for me and I want to give them value for money."

"Take a look at Morton's resources. They don't have the buying power of a Manchester United or a Nottingham Forest. Paying out £25,000 for yours truly might compare with either United or Forest spending half-a-million quid."

"Everything is relevant and must be taken into consideration. I know I'm going to enjoy my soccer at Cappielow."

'Sent-off'

"Funnily enough, I'll be playing alongside a player whom I didn't get on too well with when we were opponents... Davie Hayes! I was sent-off playing for Thistle against Morton once after a tackle on Davie and I thought it was a bit harsh."

"Thankfully, Davie and I can laugh at the incident today and there are no hard feelings. In fact, Davie and I struck up an immediate understanding as we both operate mainly on the right."

"He's a marvellous competitor and now I realise why I never fancied playing against him. He's hard, but fair and typifies the new, winning spirit of Morton."

"I haven't won a major trophy in 11 years of football with Thistle, Kilmarnock and now Morton. Hopefully, that situation will be rectified within the next two years."

"Manager Benny Rooney has an uncanny knack of making his predictions come true."

Scotland's mystery club

SCOTLAND'S worst League side at the moment, Stranraer, who are lying in 14th and last position in the Second Division are, as you might expect, going through a traumatic time just now.

Tucked away on the West Coast of Scotland just a boat trip away from Ireland and isolated in both the travelling and success stakes, the Stair Park club must be the most unenviable and least cared about side amongst the country's 38 League outfits.

To many in the South they can be regarded as no more than another name on the pools coupon, and it is true to say that most followers of the game outside the county of Wigtownshire, where Stranraer is situated, could tell the average "Sassenach"

nothing whatsoever of this "mystery" club.

Their only claim to fame since their election to the Scottish League in 1929 came in season 1960/61, when the club won a Quarter-Final place in the League Cup.

Player-manager Neil Hood, who tasted the joys of winning as a striker with first Hamilton then Clyde, has begun to accept things as they are since leaving Clyde to take over as boss in April, 1979.

"We're not looking for medals here at Stranraer but I can say without a doubt that we must be the most underrated club in Scotland," he maintains.

Hood certainly feels that despite their lowly position more attention should be given to the part-time



Stranraer boss Neil Hood

players of Stranraer and the loyalty they show by taking time off work (with permission, of course) to travel 160 miles to Cowdenbeath or 180 miles for a match with Stenhousemuir on a wet and windy Wednesday night.

One player who has trekked back and forth with Stranraer for 11 years is skipper Hugh Hay, who has seen more downs than ups in his time at full-back.

Nippy left-winger Ian Gibb is another player who gives his all for Stranraer and since signing from Stenhousemuir in 1978 has scored vital goals that have saved the side from even more defeats than they have experienced recently.

Despite lack of results, Stranraer are still optimistic of something on the horizon — as they showed recently by installing a £20,000 floodlighting system and also investing in some of the most up to date materials to keep their pitch in tip-top condition.

'A FIGHT TO BEAT RELEGATION'

TOUGH days lie ahead for Wrexham. That's the opinion of the Welsh club's international defender, Joey Jones, after checking on the situation at the bottom end of Division Two.

"We've got a real fight on our hands to stay clear of the relegation zone," says Joey. "I reckon everybody has to pull his weight, and there's no way we can afford to be complacent."

"In late February Wrexham were sixth from bottom, and our record when travelling was better than it was at home."

"For some reason, which we can't put our finger on, we are not putting our game together at the Racecourse Ground — and after our exit from the F.A. Cup we must summon up the motivation to pick up more points in front of our own fans."

Jones, a player who in his days with Liverpool was acknowledged one of the most enthusiastic performers in the First Division, has needed all that enthusiasm in past months.

A pre-season operation for a groin injury he sustained last term meant that Joey had his own pri-



vate struggle to regain peak fitness for 1980-81.

He says: "I wouldn't want to go through that experience again. There was a lot of pain involved for several months."

"I received the injury against Charlton in the F.A. Cup, and I made matters worse by getting back into action too soon. But now it's behind me and I just want to forget it."

Wrexham captain Joey Jones knows his side have a tough battle on their hands from now until May.

Born in Llandudno, he made his debut for Wrexham against Rotherham in January, 1973, before being transferred to Liverpool for a record club fee of £110,000 in July, 1975. And he still vividly recalls the highlights of his memorable time at Anfield.

"To be part of the Liverpool squad that won the European Cup in 1977, and also appearing in the F.A. Cup Final of the same year, gave me a tremendous thrill. All the Liverpool players were great, Ray Clemence, Tommy Smith, Kevin Keegan and the rest of them, and just to be associated with them made me feel proud."

Now, back at the ground where

he started out as a professional, Jones is as ambitious as ever.

"My chief wish is to win promotion to the First Division with Wrexham," he says. "I'm happy here, have no regrets about my years in football so far, and would pack in the game today if I failed to enjoy it."

"I'm getting more pleasure from playing than ever before. In my three years with Liverpool I was a recognised full-back — but after rejoining Wrexham in 1978 and playing at left-back for a while, I was moved into the middle of the back-four and prefer it to anywhere else."

'Ideal'

"I operate mainly as a sweeper, which is ideal for me, and it helps to be playing in front of a goalkeeper like Dai Davies, who is having his best ever season."

Whatever the current changes in the game, it seems certain that Jones' own contribution won't alter. He cost Wrexham £200,000 when they bought him back from Liverpool — and Joey is the type who believes in giving full value for money.

"I don't see any way we'll be relegated, and as long as we can stay up this season we have a good chance of promotion next year."

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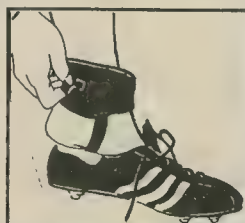
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Clive Whitehead (left) has moved into the City attack. A goalless draw at Chelsea (above) showed the club's improvement in defence.

Bristol doomsday

IS the city of Bristol heading for its soccer doomsday? Bristol Rovers will have to produce one of the best escape campaigns for years if they are to avoid the Third Division: currently City are battling furiously under new manager Bob Houghton to sidestep a dual relegation for the West Country 'capital'.

"Frankly, I think we will stay in the Second," says City all-rounder Clive Whitehead, the player with the longest contract in football — 11 years. "It is going to be a fight to the finish, but the spirit within the club is outstanding and the new ideas that Bob has brought in are paying off.

"It will be a terrible thing for this area if both clubs go, especially considering that we were playing in the First Division just 12 months ago. I can't see Rovers getting off the hook and I think that Preston will go as well.

"The remaining place is between ourselves, Shrewsbury, Cardiff and a couple of others. It is going to be tight but we are determined to survive. Most of all because we all feel that Bob deserves the chance of starting from scratch with an entire season of Second Division football ahead of him.

"To be fair to him, he has known nothing but a struggling side from the moment he arrived — and he deserves better.

"The first thing he had to get right was our defence and he has already seen to that. Once we were making goals; now we give away nothing. Bob took Malmo to the European Cup Final on brilliant defensive organisation and he has successfully brought in that

pattern at Ashton Gate.

"When we move out, the back four quickly close up on the midfield players and that has stopped other sides being allowed the space there in which to play.

"It is a different style and Bob has made it work. That is problem number one solved, and now the next must be at the sharp end of the side. We must start scoring."

To boost the skill factor in his attack, manager Houghton has moved the versatile Whitehead into a central strike force partnership with Kevin Mabbutt. His control, especially with his left foot, can carve out the chances for the highly talented and youthful Mabbutt to end his first full season as top scorer.

"The lad has everything he needs," says Whitehead. "He is quick, sharply aware in his reading of situations and a strong finisher. If he keeps going, he has a terrific chance of becoming an international."

Clive has played every position apart from goalkeeper for City, but never has he been given a more vital job than now. "With the defence locked and bolted and the midfield creating openings, we are the players with the responsibility of winning matches — especially a few away from home where we

must start picking up points.

"If I am pressed, I suppose I must say that left-back is my favourite position — but playing central-striker certainly runs it close. I enjoy working with Kevin because his rather special ability makes him an exciting partner."

One link that the thoughtful Houghton has introduced from his Malmo past is Swedish international goalkeeper Jan Moller. Beaten only by Trevor Francis in that 1979 European Cup Final, the tall Swede has swiftly settled in Bristol.

'Lightning'

"Being Scandinavian, he speaks very good English and that has helped," agrees Whitehead. "He is undoubtedly a top goalkeeper: physically strong and tall with lightning reflexes. In fact, just the man needed for a club fighting for its future.

"If we can only get over the 'hump' of this season — and the broken leg injury to centre-half Dave Rodgers recently was a dreadful blow — we can take off. I'm sure of it. The slate will be clean and young players like full-back Paul Stevens, central defender Alan Nicholls and midfield prospect Russell Musker can join Kevin Mabbutt in a new look City squad.

"We have a fine ground, youthful talent, a manager of the new school and an excellent spirit. All the ingredients are there to restore success to Ashton Gate... providing we can get past this season and make a fresh start."



Chris Davies meets the Arsenal midfielder

IN Graham Rix's front room is a video. It isn't his; it belongs to his best friend, Liam Brady, and Rix is looking after it while Brady is in Italy. Rix tapes films and matches for Brady to watch in his Turin apartment.

The two still keep in touch — "We speak on the phone when he rings me," says Rix — and they hope to be reunited at the end of the season when Graham and his wife, Gill, plan an Italian holiday. Only Gill's pregnancy leaves a doubt about the trip.

When Brady left Arsenal for Juventus, the path was clear for Rix to establish himself as The Gunners' play-maker, six years after Alan Ball had called Graham "the best young player I've seen."

Rix admits he hasn't yet produced the goods. "I remember Ballie writing that in SHOOT. At the time I was just chuffed to see my name in the magazine, but I admit it put some pressure on me.

"I haven't lived up to Alan's expectations. I know what I'm capable of, but haven't done it consistently over a period of time.

"The answer lies with me. It's simply that I lose concentration during matches. I find certain aspects of football easy, such as laying off a ten yard pass. Because of this I tend to take my eye off the ball and fluff it.

'Killer'

"Don Howe tells me that a midfield player has nine easy passes out of ten — the last one is the killer ball. With me it's the other way round. I'm always looking for the difficult pass.

"This is why Liam is world-class. He knows when to release the ball... when not to try the impossible.

"When Chippy left I hoped I would be given the central midfield position, but I was still playing wide. Since Brian McDermott came into the team recently I've moved from there to a position where I can influence the game more. I've felt my game improving and I hope it continues."

Rix, at 23, has two and half England caps — "I came on as sub against Switzerland." This worries him.

"Other countries have 23-year-olds who are established internationals. In the recent Copa de Oro most of the South Americans seemed to be the same age as me or younger.

"I appreciate Ron Greenwood has a hard job, but in my view Glenn Hoddle should be a household name by now. It's a joke that I've been in the team and he hasn't. If he'd been given the chance at 19 or 20 he'd be controlling the England side by now. His skills are more suited to international football than Division One.

"The manager is loyal to those who have served him well and I'm not criticising him or telling him his job. I look around and the World Cup is only 15 months away... will we be given a chance? My aim is to play in the next game against Spain and stay in the team.

"One player who has no worries is Kenny Sansom. In the few months I've played with him I've realised just how good he is. If I'm in a tight situation and he is, too, I can still give Kenny the ball because he'll get out of trouble. He'll be England's left-back for the next ten years."

English football needs young players like Rix and Hoddle to make the international breakthrough. While Trevor Brooking, Dave Watson and company have been magnificent servants — and are still fine players — will they be effective in the summer of 1982 if England reach Spain? Should Greenwood gamble now and give some younger players a run in the team? Rix is almost the same age as Ray Wilkins, who was given the opportunity to show what he could do by Don Revie. Wilkins now has over 30 caps to his credit...

Rix is aware that before any international ambitions he must produce the goods for Arsenal. Since he came into the side he has, as he says, only known Europe and Cup Finals. This season 'all' The Gunners are chasing is a UEFA Cup spot.

"We're not failures by any means. English football robbed us of glory last season. Those F.A. Cup replays against Liverpool... so many games... when we played West Ham and Valencia that extra sparkle had gone. Our game was blunted.

"We haven't been functioning correctly as a unit. You can't blame the injuries. Every team has these and anyway, Steve Walford, who came in for David O'Leary, was probably our best player in that period.

"Players dictate the system you play. Ipswich changed theirs when the Dutchmen arrived. They used to bypass midfield with the up-and-under kick; now they build up slowly from



the back through to attack.

"Arsenal play a certain way. Some call us boring — what they should really say is disciplined.

"The offside trap is a skill and requires delicate timing. I think 85 per cent of the fans are only concerned with the result. When we played Norwich this season our own supporters were chanting 'Arsenal are boring.' Then Brian McDermott came on, scored a couple of quick goals and the crowd were shouting 'we're gonna win the League.' They went home happy."

Rix has been at Highbury for seven years. Born in a small village just outside Doncaster, he used to come down to Arsenal in the school holidays before joining them as an apprentice.

"It was different then. It became my job and I took it far more seriously. Arsenal are a smashing club and I really couldn't better myself in this respect.

"All our young lads go to classes now to teach them how to order in French restaurants and things like that. I was from the sticks and didn't have much idea about certain aspects of life, but the club have helped me."

Even before he was established in the team Rix had fears for his career. "I had two cracked vertebrae in my back. I was in a plaster cast for three months and looked like the Incredible Hulk. They sent me home and my dad was off work with heart trouble. I became a heck of a good card player!

Thankfully I have no problems with it now."

Rix has come to terms with being a personality, although he still can't understand the rudeness shown to him by some mindless fans.

"I'll always have a chat at the right time, but I go bright red when I'm wheeling a trolley round Sainsbury's and people shout out from three counters away 'Alright Rix? How's it going?' Spurs fans come up and say 'I hate you, Rix.'

"I'm just a guy doing my job. Footballers are no different from anyone else.

'Criticised'

"This is what annoys me when we're criticised for going abroad. Why shouldn't we? Doctors and others do it. Why not us? I don't blame Liam for going to Italy. In three years he can earn enough to set himself up for life.

"The public are misled about how much we earn. If I were a rep I'd earn almost as much as I do now and I could do that until I was 60.

"There's nothing wrong about wanting to better yourself. Liam loved Arsenal and so do I, but anyone is mad who turns down such an offer."

Rix's contract has just over a year to run and he hasn't thought that far ahead because "so much can happen in the meantime."

He is far more concerned about

BETTER PLAYER'

**says
Graham
Rix**

helping Arsenal back into Europe.

"When I missed that penalty that cost us the Cup-Winners' Cup last year I was glad it was me. I knew I'd get over it quickly whereas some of the other lads might not have done. I woke up the next morning and said to myself that I'll just have to help Arsenal reach another European Final and score the winning goal. I had to be positive about the whole thing.

"Last season taught me to savour the good moments. I don't think I got enough out of our F.A. Cup win against Manchester United in 1979.

"The previous year we lost to Ipswich. Although I'd played in 39 games I knew I'd miss out. It was easier to drop me than Alan Hudson or Alan Sunderland who cost big fees.

"I came out of the manager's office and Liam saw me and put his thumbs up. I gave him the thumbs down. Liam played and had to come off. He told me afterwards that if he'd known we'd have reached Wembley again he wouldn't have played against Ipswich. He wasn't 100 per cent fit, but it might have been his only chance.

"I wrote to him last month and made the point that in all his years with Arsenal he didn't win the Championship. Now, in his first season with Juventus, he could have a winners' medal."

Rix may be in Turin in a couple of months to see Juventus clinch the Italian League.

Somehow, you get the impression that their careers will also cross again one day.



Graham on the ball against West Brom's Derek Statham. Left is his former team-mate and best friend Liam Brady.



THE early season demise of Malcolm Allison and Manchester City gave heaven-sent material to comedians all over the country — but it was no laughing matter for Little and Large.

You see, Eddie and Syd are City fanatics and they didn't see the funny side of City's slide to the foot of the First Division.

"It was terrible really, I kept hearing Bernard Manning, George Roper and other comics taking the mickey out of City, and I couldn't bear to listen — not because they weren't good — but because it was MY team they were talking about," said Eddie.

Now he's the one with a smile on his face after City's remarkable upsurge in the League, and progress in two Cup competitions.

"Yeh, he's great that John Bond. I like his brother Premium as well, and James is all right — he could wear 007 and play on the right

Syd doesn't go as often as Eddie to matches, but reckons when he does he gets even more excited.

"I'm terrible as a watcher. I shout and get really involved in the matches, perhaps because I'm making up for all the time I don't go. I can always tell when it's Saturday night because of Eddie's mood. If they took calendars and watches away from me so I'd no idea what day of the week it was, that would be the way I could tell.

"He's a different person on a Saturday night, and often it reflects in his act. If City have had a good result he just wants to go on and on enjoying himself and you can't get him off stage."

Eddie likens football to show business in many ways.

Bobby Johnstone (stripes) scores for City in the 1956 F.A. Cup Final against Birmingham.



LITTLE and LARGE BIG City fans

wing," adds City's greatest fan, who admits he was never a Malcolm Allison supporter.

"I didn't join in the gags about Malcolm, though, that wouldn't have looked good."

He was, of course, referring to cracks like: Malcolm Allison was caught breaking into a cigarette machine the other day. He was looking for ten players!

And: Did you know Malcolm Allison has bought a house next door to the ground at Maine Road? His doctor told him to get as far away from football as possible!

Eddie: "I prefer to tell stories about Manchester United. Did you know they're on television next week, Syd?"

Syd: "No, what programme's that, Eddie?"

Eddie: "Survival!"

Privilege

The two True Blues have been City fans for years, Eddie in particular, and he's often to be found in the City dug-out at matches, a special privilege which has been afforded him by the City management for some time now.

"They're a great bunch of lads at Maine Road, and I love going into the dressing room before a home match. The backroom staff have been terrifically helpful and I really enjoy the atmosphere of a big match day.

"It was strange on the night of the Liverpool game in the League Cup Semi-Final. There was John Bond and John Benson, and all the players saying it was 'just another game' and I was pacing up and down as nervous as a kitten beforehand!

"I suppose it's like Syd and me going on stage and chatting to some of the customers before the show. We're quite relaxed and they think we should be closeted away somewhere to avoid the tension."

Eddie Large gets a helping hand from partner Syd Little and City 'keeper Joe Corrigan after a training session at Maine Road.



"We're all performers on a stage when you think about it, I'm sure that's why we generally mix well with sportsmen. They like to relax at a show, and have a few laughs, we like to go to a match and see another form of entertainment."

Eddie's hero was little Bobby Johnstone, the Scottish inside forward who headed a spectacular goal in an F.A. Cup Final for City, when they went to Wembley in successive years 1955 and 1956, losing to Newcastle United the first time around and then beating Birmingham the next year.

"Bobby scored in both those Finals and he was a wonderful little player, who later went on to Oldham Athletic," remembers Eddie.

"Then there was Denis Law. He was a genius and must have been a marvellous character to have in a side, and my last real hero was Colin Bell. I still go to his restaurant a lot and love to chat to him about football. That was a great side that he played in along with Mike Summerbee, Frannie Lee, Tony Book and Mike Doyle.

'Fantastic'

"I think we've got a good side again now, though, and all credit to John Bond who's done a fantastic job in such a short space of time. It may be a while before we're as good as that team of the 60's, but I genuinely believe that we're on the right road."

Syd hopes so too, if only for the sake of their act.

"Eddie's miserable when City lose and we can't afford too many nights when the comic is so sad that the straight man has to get all the laughs!"

And to prove that Eddie has recaptured his notorious sense of humour now that City are on the ascendancy, he leaves us with one last dig at rivals United.

"What was the first question asked by the American hostages when they were released from Iran?" he asks.

And the answer: "Has Garry Birtles scored for United yet?"

THE BELLS TOLL FOR RAFFERTY

BILLY Rafferty said he felt like Dick Whittington, answering the call of the bells of London when the famous Pompey Chimes rang out for him just before Christmas.

And despite the fact that, at the time, he was with Newcastle, a club he had always had a great affection for, and that he'd only just settled into a new house with his family after months of searching, those Pompey Chimes, ably assisted by the persuasive tongue of manager Frank Burrows, proved just too much to resist.

For Rafferty, one of soccer's top travellers, transfers are nothing new. Coventry, Blackpool, Plymouth, Carlisle and Wolves all sought his services before Newcastle. But move number seven, to the go-ahead South-Coast club, came completely out of the blue.

"When Arthur Cox took over as manager at St James' earlier this season, he made it clear he was going to give everyone on the senior staff a run in the first team, to see what they could do, before he made up his mind whether or not he wanted them to stay," recalled Billy.

'Thrashing'

"I played in the first seven or eight games under the new boss, and as far as I can remember, I was the only player to have such an extended run. But I was dropped after our terrible 6-0 thrashing at Chelsea, and Ray Clarke took over my role up front. Then I was brought back again after a few games' absence and managed to hold on to my place.

"So naturally, I thought I was there to stay. That is, until Mr Burrows was given permission to come up to Newcastle and talk to me.

"I've got to admit, when I first learnt of Portsmouth's interest, my immediate reaction was that there was no way I'd be moving to what was virtually the other end of the country. Especially just before Christmas.

"The previous year my family and I had to spend the holiday in rented accommodation because of the trouble we'd had selling our house in Wolverhampton. I wasn't exactly looking forward to doing the same again.

"But after spending a couple of days talking with Frank Burrows, I'd changed my mind completely.

"I know it sounds like one of those over-worked footballer's clichés, but I really was impressed with the plans he has for the club.

"Although the club had only won promotion from the Fourth Division the previous season, he wasn't interested in simply consolidating their position. He has set his sights on going up again this season.

"I still had 18 months of my contract to run at Newcastle, and I felt it was going to take at least that amount of time for the club to



get back into the First Division. But despite Pompey being in a Division lower, my impression was that they are still bubbling along on the crest of a wave. With the momentum their recent success has generated, I feel promotion this season is a distinct possibility. Then, who knows, maybe even a crack at the big time again.

"That's why I finally agreed to the move. I wanted to be part of what could be the start of something big for one of the country's once great clubs."

Billy has always been able to find the net with commendable regularity for all the clubs he's served, and he's looking forward to keeping that tally ticking over, and maybe even stepping up the rate, for his new outfit.

"Goalscoring is never easy, no matter which Division you're playing in," said the big Scot.

"But I can't deny that compared to playing in the First and Second Divisions, in the Third, you do have those extra few seconds in vital areas in front of goal.

"Consequently, you seem to get, on average, three or four good scoring chances in a game, compared to maybe just one per game in the First.

'Chances'

"But even so, you've still got to be able to put the ball away, no matter how many chances come your way.

"That's what Frank Burrows has bought me to do.

"I'm 29 now, probably at my peak of physical ability, and still as ambitious as ever. Having played in the First Division with Wolves, I'm determined to get back there and have another crack at life at the top.

"I'd be delighted to do just that with Portsmouth. The fans are tremendous — they really do deserve some success.

"I said before, when I moved to Newcastle, that if I was going to settle down anywhere, I couldn't think of a better place to do it than St James'.

"Well, that wasn't to be. Maybe Fratton Park is."



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

A trainer drafted into a team to make up the numbers is sent-off for violent conduct. Later one of his players is injured and he asks to enter the pitch to treat him. Should you allow the trainer on?



2

Whilst receiving treatment off the pitch a player trips an opponent on the pitch. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick, (b) a direct free-kick, or (c) take no action?



3

The ball, miskicked from a free-kick inside the penalty-area, strikes you standing just outside the area and rebounds into the goal. Should you (a) award a goal, or (b) a corner?



4

Two players accidentally run over the goal-line but the ball remains in play. The defending player holds the shirt of his opponent. Should you award: (a) a penalty, or (b) drop the ball?



5

What action should you take when a player sitting on the trainer's bench shouts at you: (a) take no action, or (b) warn him?



ANSWERS

1. Yes. 2. A direct free-kick (a). 3. A corner (b). 4. Drop the ball (b). 5. Warn him (b).
In the F.A. Cup derby between Everton and Liverpool the game had only gone two minutes and was watched by millions of people on T.V. when I gave a free-kick for Liverpool. I noticed a person on the bench pointing at me. I was so annoyed, I stopped play and went over to him and warned him. I also warned manager Gordon Lee. I was very surprised to learn at half-time that the player was goalkeeper Jim McDonagh.

LINE-UPS... RESULTS... SCORERS...

Tuesday, February 10

League Cup

(Semi-Finals, second-leg)

LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (Dalglish)
MAN CITY (0) 1 (Reeves) 46,711
 (Liverpool win 2-1 on agg)
 Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Money, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.
 Man City: Corrigan, Ranson (Henry), Caton, Reid, Power, Booth, Tseart, Buckley, Mackenzie, Bennett, Reeves.

WEST HAM (0) 2 (Goddard, Neighbour)
COVENTRY (0) 0 36,551
 (West Ham win 4-3 on agg)
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
 Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.

Third Division

CARLISLE 0
READING 0 3,889

PORTSMOUTH (1) 5 (Bryant, Tait 3, Rafferty)
EXETER (0) 0 12,743

Scottish Second

STENHOUSEMUIR 2
QUEEN'S PARK 2 300

Wed, February 11

World Club Championship

NACIONAL (1) 1 (Victorino)
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 0 (in Tokyo) 62,000



Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish

Nacional: Rodriguez, Moreira, Blanco, Enriquez, Gonzalez, Milar, Esparrago, Luzardo, Bica, Victorino, Morales.
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray (F), Gray (S), Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Ponte (Ward), Francis, Wallace, Robertson.

Fourth Division

BRADFORD 0
HALIFAX 0 3,056

WIGAN (0) 1 (Wright)
HEREFORD (0) 0 3,370

Scottish Second

MEADOWBANK (1) 1 (Jobson)
EAST FIFE (1) 3 (Scott, Mitchell, McGuinn) 270

Friday, February 13th

Fourth Division

STOCKPORT 0
WIMBLEDON 0 1,772

Saturday, February 14

F.A. Cup

(Fifth Round)

IPSWICH (0) 2 (Wark, Mariner)
CHARLTON (0) 0 30,221
 Ipswich: Cooper, Osman, McCall, Thijssen, Beattie, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.
 Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Warman, Shaw, Berry (Smith), Tydeman, Powell, Walsh, Hales, Robinson, Walker.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 2 (Proctor, Jankovic)
BARNLEY (1) 1 (Lester) 37,577
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, Johnston, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic, Armstrong.
 Barnley: New, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Cooper, Riley, Aylott, Lester, Downs.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Shoulder)
EXETER (0) 1 (Roberts L) 37,420
 Newcastle: Carr, Camey, Johnson, Walker, Boam, Halliday, Shinton (Shoulder), Trewick, Clark, Wharton, Waddle.

Exeter: Bond, Rogers (M), Sparrow, Forbes, Roberts (L), Roberts (P), Pearson (Pratt), Rogers (P), Kellow, Dolve, Hatch.


NOTTM. FOREST (0) 2 (Robertson (pen), Wallace)
BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Mabbutt) 26,372
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray (F), Gray (S), Burns, Gunn, Mills, Francis, Wallace, Walsh, Robertson.
 Bristol City: Moller, Stevens, Sweeney, Aitken, Marshall, Nicholls, Tainton, Mann, Mabbutt, Pritchard, Whitehead.

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
MANCHESTER CITY (1) 1 (Booth) 27,780
 Peterborough: Waugh, McVay, Phillips (Syrett), Gynn, Slack, Slough, Quow, Kellock, Cooke, Hodgson, Robson.
 Man. City: Corrigan, Henry, McDonald, Reid, Power, Booth, Bennett, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
EVERTON 0 24,152
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Waldron, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Moran (Hebbard), Holmes.
 Everton: McDonagh, Ratcliffe, Bailey, Wright, Lyons, Gidman, Ross, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe.


TOTTENHAM (2) 3 (Ardiles, Archibald, Hughton)
COVENTRY (1) 1 (English) 36,698
 Tottenham: Daines, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Ardiles (Brooke), Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.
 Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson (Hateley), Gillespie, Jacobs, Daly, Thompson, English, Hunt.

WOLVES (0) 3 (Bell 2, Richards)
WREXHAM (1) 1 (Fox) 33,788
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Clarke, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Gray, Richards, Eves (Bell).
 Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Dwyer, Jones, Cegielski, Arkwright, Fox, Sutton, Edwards (Vinter), McNeil, Cartwright.



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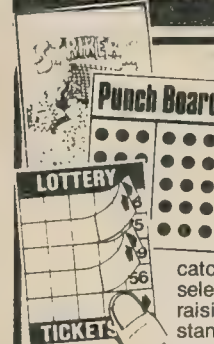
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LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

First Division

LEEDS (1) 1 (Flynn)
STOKE (1) 3 (Chapman 3) 16,530
 Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Connor (Sabella), Parlane, Graham.
 Stoke: Fox, Johnson, Hampton, Dodd, Doyle, Heath, Bracewell, Ursem, Chapman, O'Callaghan, Munro.

LIVERPOOL (2) 2 (Johnson, Neal)
BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 (Evans, Ainscow) 32,199
 Liverpool: Clemencia, Neal, Money, Irwin, Kennedy (R), Sheedy, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott (Case), Souness.
 Birmingham: Weslands, Langan, Broadhurst, Dillon, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Handysides, Worthington (Givens), Gammill, Evans.

NORWICH (0) 0
WBA (1) 2 (Regis, Owen (pen)) 15,218
 Norwich: Hansbury, McDowell, Muzinic, Barham, Watson, Powell, Jack, Robson, Royle, Pasdon, Goble.
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Deehan, Regis, Owen, Barnes.

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Cummins)
LEICESTER (0) 0 22,569
 Sunderland: Siddall, Whitworth, Hinnigan, Hindmarch, Elliott, Chisholm, Rowell, Bowyer, Hawley, Ritchie, Cummins.
 Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Byrne, May, O'Neill, Peake (Macdonald), Lynex, Young, Melrose, Wilson.

Second Division

BLACKBURN (1) 1 (Brotherston)
DERBY (0) 0 12,533
 Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Speight, Brotherston, Busby (Garner), Lowey, Burke, Parkes.
 Derby: Jones, Emery, Buckley, Powell (B), McFarland, Ramage, Swindlehurst, Hector, Biley, Wilson (Osgood), Emson.

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 2 (Randall 2)
BOLTON (0) 1 (Gowling) 5,368
 Bristol Rovers: McAllister, Jones, Cooper, Hughes (McAfee), Williams (G), Emmanuel (Lee), Williams (S), Mabbutt, Randall, Barrowclough.
 Bolton: Poole, Graham, Brennan, Gowling, McElhinney, Jones, Nikolic, Hoggan, Thomas, Whatmore, Bennett (Wilson).

CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Reilly)
PRESTON (0) 0 4,228
 Cambridge: Kay, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, Streets, Spriggs, Reilly, Lyons, Christie.
 Preston: Tunks, Westwell, McAtear, Baxter, O'Riordan, Bell, Doyle, Elliott, Naughton, McGee, Coleman.

GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Waters 2 (2 pens))
ORIENT (0) 0 10,190
 Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Broily, Whyman, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.
 Orient: Day, Fisher, Taylor (T), Moores, Roffey, Margerison, Chiedoie, Bowles, Jennings, Parsons (Godfrey), Taylor (P).

QPR (0) 1 (Howe)
NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 ((McCulloch) 10,190
 QPR: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Hazell, Howe, Langley, King, Stainrod, Currie, Silkman.
 Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks.

SHEFFIELD WED (2) 3 (Curran 2, McCulloch)
OLDHAM (0) 0 16,679
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Shirliff, Smith, Sterland, Taylor (Pearson), Mirocevic, Leman, McCulloch, Curran.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:—
 (3) Posh. (4) Ire. (6) Wile. (8) Ashman. (12) Sexton. (14) Perryman. (17) Limerick. (19) Street. (21) Robson. (23) Sway. (24) Tea. (25) Lacy.

DOWN:—
 (1) Rofe. (2) Thijssen. (5) Elm. (6) West. (7) Lion. (9) Any. (10) Regis. (11) Daley. (13) Oar. (15) Rut. (16) McDonald. (18) Ego. (19) Shaw. (20) Rely. (22) Bet. (23) Sock.

Oldham: Platt, Sinclair, Blair, Edwards, Clements, Hurst, Hilton (Wyde), Keegan, McDonough, Nuttall, Palmer.

WATFORD (1) 1 (Bolton)
SHREWSBURY (0) 0 11,034
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Poskett.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong (Larkin), Lindsay, Bates, Biggins, Cross.

WEST HAM (1) 4 (Brooking 2, Cross, Devonshire)
CHELSEA (0) 0 35,164
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
 Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Elmes (Driver), Fillery, Lee, Mayes, Rhoades-Brown.



Gary Owen of WBA

Third Division

BLACKPOOL (0) 0
FULHAM (1) 2 (Mahoney, Goodlass) 3,792

BRENTFORD (2) 2 (Tucker pen, Roberts)
PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 (Rafferty 2) 10,160

CARLISLE (0) 2 (Staniforth, Beardsley)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 3,924

CHESTERFIELD (0) 2 (Birch, Wilson)
OXFORD (1) 1 (Foley) 6,541

COLCHESTER (1) 2 (McDonough, Bremner)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Hamilton) 3,082

NEWPORT (1) 1 (Gwyther)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Lee) 5,152

READING (0) 2 (Beavon 2)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Lillis) 5,290

SWINDON (3) 5 (Miller, Rowland 3, Williams pen)
SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 2 (Kenworthy pen, Hatton) 6,305

WALSALL (0) 1 (Buckley)
HULL (0) 1 (Roberts (G)) 3,914

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 4 (Mooney 2, Hebditch (og), Morgan)
BRADFORD (0) 0 3,561

BURY 0
ALDRSHOT 0 2,576

CREWE (1) 1 (Greenhoff)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 2,231

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Firth (pen))
LINCOLN (1) 3 (Hobson 2, Shipley pen) 4,444

HEREFORD (1) 1 (White)
DONCASTER (1) 3 (Snodin, Nimmo 2) 2,806

NORTHAMPTON (2) 3 (Bowen 2, Denyer)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 (Hampton) 2,032

PORT VALE (2) 3 (Bowles, Miller, Chamberlain)
WIGAN (0) 0 3,214

TORQUAY (0) 2 (Bowker, Rioch)
ROCHDALE (0) 0 1,724

YORK (0) 0
SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Spence) 2,129

Scottish Cup

(Fourth Round)

CELTIC (1) 3 (McGarvey, McCluskey, Burns)
STIRLING (0) 0 14,200
 Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Sullivan, McAdam, Aitken, Provan, Conroy, McGarvey (McCluskey), Burns, Nicholas.
 Stirling: Arthur, Young, Skilling, Philiben, Nicol, Moffat, McPhee (Colquhoun), Duffin, Steele, Gray, Armstrong (McNeill).

COWDENBEATH (1) 1 (Steele)
EAST STIRLING (0) 2 (Ashwood, Rennie) 1,012
 Cowdenbeath: Allan, Rolland, Markey, Tierney, Stewart, Hunter, Ferguson, Steele, Liddell, Marshall, Duncan (McGhee).
 E. Stirling: Kelly, Renwick, Gourlay, McCulley, Rennie, Watt, Grant, Sharp (Robertson), Ashwood, Lamont, McCaig (Bennett).

DUNDEE UNITED (0) 1 (Addison)
PARTICK (0) 0 7,758
 Dundee United: McAlpine, Phillip, Kopel, Addison, Hegarty, Narey, Bannan, Payne (Pettigrew), Kirkwood, Sturrock, Dods.
 Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, Anderson, Watson (Lapsley), McDonald (Sweeney), Jardine, O'Hara, Doyle, Clark.

HIBERNIAN (0) 1 (Callaghan)
FALKIRK (0) 0 6,425
 Hibernian: McArthur, Sneddon, Duncan, Brown (J), Peterson, McNamara, Callaghan, Rae, McLaughlin, Connolly, McGlinchey (Jamieson).
 Falkirk: Watson, Hoggan, Burrell, Brown (Spence), Mackin, Hay, Stevenson, Herd, Perry (Thompson), Oliver, Kettings.

KILMARNOCK 0
CLYDEBANK 0 3,000
 Kilmarnock: McCulloch, McLean, Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, McDicken, McBride, Gibson (Hughes), Bourke, Bryce, Street.
 Clydebank: Kenny, Gervaise, McLaughlin, Fallon, Evans, Given, Ronald, Houston, Miller, McCorm, McCabe.

MORTON (1) 1 (Ritchie)
ABERDEEN (0) 0 10,000
 Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, Busby, Marr, Thomson, McNeil, Ritchie (Houston).
 Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Considine, Watson, McLeish, Miller, Ball (Davidson), McCall (Hamilton), McGhee, Harrow, Angus.

MOTHERWELL (1) 2 (Gahagan, McLaughlin)
DUMBARTON (0) 1 (Coyle (J)) 4,374
 Motherwell: Sproat, Wark, MacLeod, McClelland, Smith, Forbes, McLaughlin, Kidd, Irvine, Soutar, Gahagan.
 Dumbarton: Carson, Sinclair, MacLeod, Coyle (T), Gallagher (J) (Jackson), Coyle (J), Rankin (Blair), McGowan, Gallagher (B), Donnelly, McGrain.

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 3 (Docherty, Brogan 2)
RANGERS (2) 3 (McAdam, Redford 2) 17,500
 St Johnstone: Tulloch, Mackay, McNeil, Fleming, Rutherford, Caldwell, Pelosi, McCoist, Docherty, Morton, Brogan.
 Rangers: McCloy, Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson, Bett, Johnston, Russell (Miller), McAdam, Redford, MacDonald (Cooper).

Scottish First

HAMILTON (0) 1 (Fairlie pen)
DUNFERMLINE (2) 4 (Dunlop, McNaughton 2 (1 pen), Hutt) 1,000

RAITH (1) 1 (Harris (C))
BERWICK (0) 1 (Black) 1,500

Scottish Second

ALBION (0) 3 (Franchetti 2 (1 pen), Gillespie)
EAST FIFE (0) 2 (Thomson (pen), Huskie) 500

ARBROATH 0
QUEEN'S PARK 0 682

BRECHIN 0
FORFAR 0 600

MEADOWBANK 0
QoS 0 400

STENHOUSEMUIR (2) 3 (Jenkins 2, Jack)
CLYDE (3) 3 (O'Neill, Kean, Evans) 350

STRANRAER (0) 2 (McCutcheon, Holt)
ALLOA (0) 2 (Headley, Hood) 350

Sunday, February 15

Fourth Division

DARLINGTON (1) 2 (Hamilton (pen), Walsh)
MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Allen, McClelland) 5,932

Monday, February 16

Fourth Division

STOCKPORT (0) 4 (Sword (pen), Coyle, Sherlock, Bradd)
TORQUAY (0) 1 (Cox) 1,431

Tuesday, February 17

F.A. Cup

(Fifth Round replay)

EVERTON (0) 1 (O'Keefe)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 set 49,192
 Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Ratcliffe, Wright, Lyons, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe.
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Waldron, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Holmes, Baker.

First Division

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0
COVENTRY (3) 3 (Bannister, English 2) 12,863
 Palace: Fry, Hinshelwood, Dora, Nicholas, Boyle, Brookes, Murphy (Banfield), Smillie, Allen, Hilaire, Walsh.
 Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Gillespie, Jacobs, Bannister, Daly, Thompson, English, Hunt.

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Brazil)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 24,781
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, Butcher, Thijssen, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhren, O'Callaghan, Brazil, Gates.
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, Johnston, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Craggs, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer, Armstrong.

MANCHESTER UNITED 0
SPURS 0 40,282
 Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Duxbury, Moran, Buchan, Coppell, Wilkins, Birdie, Macari, McIlroy.
 Spurs: Daines, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Ardies, Arnibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.

Second Division

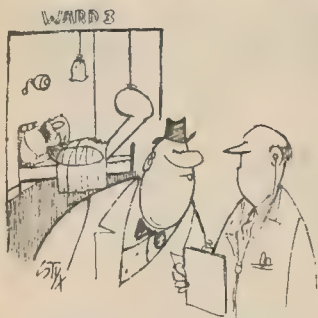
OLDHAM (1) 1 (McDonough)
WREXHAM (2) 3 (Cartwright, Vinter, McNeil) 5,042

Oldham: Platt, Sinclair, Blair, Keegan, Clements, Hurst, Atkinson, Fletcher, Nuttall, McDonough, Palmer.
Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Dwyer, Jones, Cegielski, Carrodus, Fox, Sutton, Vinter, McNeil, Cartwright.

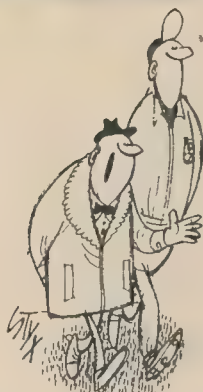
Third Division

BURNLEY (0) 0
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Powell) 5,781

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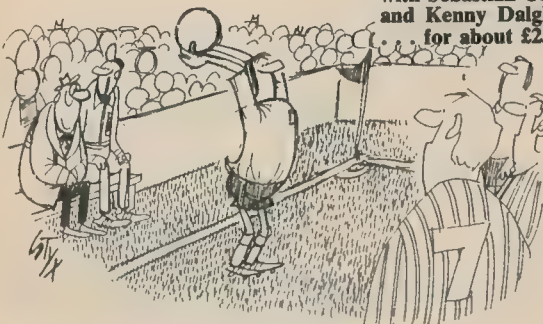


"But will he be fit for Saturday?"

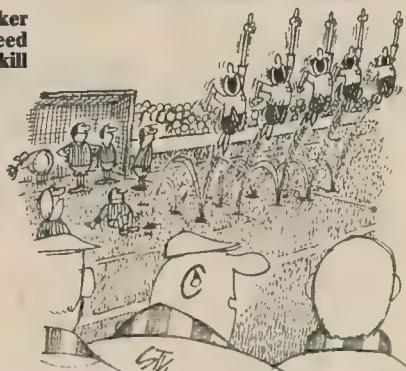


"They could have been a little kinder with their write-up."

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"Are you sure this new signing has played before?"



"There's going to be a lot of arguing about who scrambled that one in."



This week Norman Bell, hero of Wolves' F.A. Cup Fifth Round triumph against Wrexham, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"We force a corner and the manager's talking about signs of a revival."

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The English coaches boosting Scottish soccer

FRANK Upton and Tony Ford are two men who have reversed an age-old soccer trend — by moving from their native England to coach clubs in Scotland!

Since professional soccer first kicked off the Scots have been flooding down to England, with only a bare trickle ever moving the other way.

Now, though, Upton, whose League credits rival Tommy Docherty's, is coach to Dundee who are battling for promotion from the First Division. His countryman, Ford, who played for both Bristol clubs before coaching in the west of England also, has been number two to Bobby Moncur as they try to stop Hearts' slide out of the Premier Division.

Bosses

Both men were invited North by their present bosses, Donald Mackay at Dens Park, and Moncur at Tynecastle.

Upton points out: "There isn't going to be too much difference in the game anywhere. I have been all over coaching and this is another fresh experience.

"I'd been at Villa and then at Chelsea — I was manager there for 24 hours — acting manager that is — then I went to Denmark because I wanted to be my own man.

"It didn't work out there and I returned home. It was then I asked Jock Wallace at Leicester if there would be any jobs in Scotland and he told me Pat Stanton was leaving Aberdeen.

"I thought about trying for that, but I didn't, and then Donald, whom I'd known in Denmark,

approached me and offered me the job.

"I'm happy that I took it and the job has been fine. We reached the League Cup Final, which was a tremendous achievement even though we did lose to our local rivals Dundee United, and we have a good youth policy operating."

That is where Upton and Ford see the future of both their clubs — with the youth programmes they both work on.

At Hearts, Ford says: "Bobby and I both knew that the youth policy was going to be vital here and that is what we have been concentrating on a great deal of the time.

"We have several players in the Scotland youth team, and Gary Mackay and Dave Bowman have been in and out of the League team this season.

"I hadn't met Bobby before I was offered the job but I was impressed by him — and we think along the same lines. That's important!"

Upton and Mackay are the same. So, too, are the two Englishmen when they talk of the problems they face.

Upton on players in Scotland — "There is a lack of discipline about them at times. When we were going well we had discipline and we had concentration.

"Once we had injuries these things were lost for a spell and points were lost too. Scots just don't seem to take kindly to discipline . . ."

Ford on the same subject — "It's hard to take an experienced player in the Scottish game — not all of them mind you — and teach him

the tactical discipline you need. Players in England adapt more easily to that — but players in Scotland, especially young players, seem to have more natural talent. The skills are there. What we have to do is teach them good habits, and we can only do that given time."

Upton on the future — "Our lifeline here is the young players we have. Three of them could be in the youth team, Stuart McKimmie, Ian Ferguson and Ray Stephen. That's good, and we have them young enough to work on them and add to the talents they have. The good thing is that Donald and I have both coached youth teams before and coaching kids is different from coaching other players. We enjoy it and it is vital to Dundee."

'Important'

Back to Ford — "I was youth team coach at Bristol Rovers after injury forced me to give up playing and then I was at Plymouth under Tony Waiters — so I know how important that part of the job is.

"There isn't much money at Tynecastle, so while we have been able to buy one or two lads at small prices we can't simply afford to leap into the transfer market. So we have to rear our own players. The chairman, Mr Martin, knows that too. That's where our best work will be done because the future of the club is there."

Both Hearts and Dundee are clubs with tradition, and in their respective cities they have the best latent support. If the youngsters can be guided properly then these two sleeping giants could awaken once again. And two Englishmen will have helped restore them to top places in the Scottish scene.

ABOVE: Tony Ford (left) at Hearts and Frank Upton at Dundee.

BELOW: Dave Bowman, Hearts' exciting young winger.



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

F.A. CUP

The F.A. Cup Fifth Round was played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the ties?

1. Can you name the Charlton Athletic defender who was substituted because of a broken

nose in their 2-0 defeat by Ipswich Town at Portman Road?

2. Everton moved through to the Quarter-Finals when they beat Southampton 1-0 in a replay at Goodison Park. Did Imre Varadi, Peter Eastoe or Eamonn O'Keefe score the dramatic winner in extra-time?

3. Tommy Booth (pictured scoring below) was Manchester City's hero against Fourth Division



Peterborough at London Road. Did he score the only goal of the game in the first or second-half?

4. Did John Robertson score Nottingham Forest's equaliser against Bristol City from a penalty? The European Champions eventually won 2-1 at the City Ground.

JUMBLED KEEPERS

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of some of Britain's top goalkeepers and their clubs.

1. HNJORREBIGDU (EQSNURAPKGSARREN)
2. MIJcHNDGMAO (VNEEORT)
3. NJALLROEM (SLOTIBYITC)
4. IMJINHOLETG (NREDBEAE)
5. HHMSIACPMNALI (EEDNUUDIEN)

TRUE or FALSE?

1. Before sustaining a serious injury recently, Steve Parsons had been starring for Second Division Orient.
2. Arthur Cox is Newcastle United's 15th manager since the last War.
3. East Fife play their home Scottish Second Division games at Bayview Park.
4. Swansea City's Leighton Phillips is a full Wales international player.

TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 12 past or present Notts County players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. How many can you find?

S	L	R	S	G	W	R	L	R	N	M	E
R	R	E	N	L	O	C	I	T	A	S	B
A	B	I	O	C	D	C	E	S	N	L	F
G	K	H	I	N	H	J	S	E	O	U	H
K	L	T	O	A	A	O	I	C	N	C	H
M	C	S	R	E	N	R	K	A	O	Y	H
M	S	D	B	H	B	L	D	L	A	T	P
A	S	B	O	O	E	S	L	R	G	R	T
N	W	O	B	Y	R	U	L	M	S	E	L
N	K	N	E	U	C	R	O	H	M	H	S
S	L	A	S	C	T	T	C	H	N	O	A
C	E	J	M	A	C	S	K	S	I	D	E

ANSWERS:

F.A. CUP: 1. Les Berry 2. O'Keefe 3. First 4. Yes.
JUMBLED KEEPERS: 1. John Burridge (Queens Park Rangers), 2. Jim McDonagh (Everton), 3. Jan Moller (Bristol City), 4. Jim Leighton (Aberdeen), 5. Hamish McAlpine (Dundee United).
TRUE OR FALSE: 1. True 2. False — he is their ninth boss. 3. True 4. True
TRACE-A-TEAM: King, Leonard, Richards, Stubbs, O'Brien, Blockley, Hunt, Masson, Hooks, Manns, Docherty, McCulloch.

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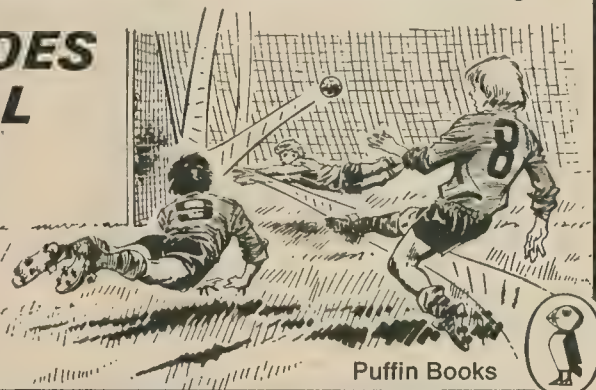
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APART from serious injury there's nothing worse for a player than being involved in a desperate battle against relegation.

Humiliation, embarrassment and pressure are things you learn to live with during the sort of crisis now facing Crystal Palace. What you never get used to is the depressing silence which descends on a club in trouble like a huge blanket.

The complete lack of atmosphere, feeling of doom and gloom can be eerie. Even on match days fans hardly speak above a whisper. There's none of the hustle and bustle you associate with a thriving team.

Driving to the ground you pass supporters ambling along. They appear as though they're simply going through the motions. Normally, if they spot a player in his car they'll wave. When you're at the



Palace's 3-0 home defeat by Coventry was watched by just 12,868 spectators — their lowest attendance for a First Division game at Selhurst Park.

'IT'S GHOSTLY AT PALACE'

bottom of the table they turn their heads. Cheers become jeers. The area around Selhurst Park is like a ghost town.

The fans naturally get disillusioned and angry. But the players in general refuse to accept the situation as hopeless. In fact they work harder than ever, especially in training, in an attempt to put things right.

We're professionals and winners by nature. We want to win all the time, even five-a-side in training. There is still a cause to fight for right to the bitter end.

Argue

Naturally tempers become frayed and things boil over at times. But this happens to clubs at the top as well. Drop a home point when you are going for the title and players quickly start to argue among themselves.

One place to avoid when a team is having problems is the dressing room after yet another defeat.

Those readers who saw the documentary called "City" on ITV recently will know what I mean. No one talks at first, not even the manager. Players sit staring into space, or with heads in hands.

I've known this silence to last fully 20 minutes before the manager explodes, or a player blames another for making mistakes. There's even no escape for the referee who always seems to favour the opposition when the going gets tough.

But at least it shows care. The Palace players care. So do the sup-

porters, even those who are staying away. They are a tremendous crowd with a deep-rooted affection for the club.

You can't blame them or new manager Dario Gradi for our precarious position.

Even though I will be moving on I firmly believe Mr. Gradi is the man to rebuild Palace. He has similar ideas and coaching methods to Terry Venables.

Dario believes in attack, entertainment, organisation and discipline.

The first thing he told the players when he took over from Malcolm Allison was that he expected everyone to turn up in suits, collars and ties on match days. To report on time for training, to take a pride in the club.

As you know I spoke to the manager soon after his arrival and repeated my request for a transfer. He said he wanted me to stay but wouldn't stand in my way when the right offer came along.

But Dario made it perfectly clear that he expected 100 per cent from me on the field and in training while I remained at Selhurst Park.

Naturally I will continue to do my best for the club — I don't know any other way.

Unlike some of the Palace players I have experienced relegation before, at Q.P.R. in May, 1979.

I'd made six appearances as substitute for the first team that 1978-79 season before scoring a hat-trick on my full debut against Coventry in April.

Rangers won 5-2 that afternoon to keep our chances of survival alive.

We had to win the last three matches to stay up.

Sadly we lost 3-4 at Leeds and 1-3 and 0-4 at home to Birmingham and Ipswich respectively.

Birmingham and Chelsea went down with Rangers that year. This season Palace, Leicester, Norwich and Brighton face the drop.

Apart from Palace, of course, the side I feel could escape are Leicester City. Those wins against Liverpool, Manchester United and Spurs



David Hodgson of Middlesbrough.

did wonders for their confidence.

Now for a much happier subject. This Sunday (March 14th) I will be at the Professional Footballers' Association Awards dinner at the London Hilton.

My vote for the P.F.A. Player of the Year went to Ipswich striker Paul Mariner. Second choice was Dave Johnson of Liverpool.

Lethal

Paul's had a fantastic season, providing a lethal spearhead for the club bidding for the title.

My vote for Young Player of the year was for Middlesbrough's Dave Hodgson.

Boro aren't one of the glamour sides, but they've certainly provided a great deal of excitement this season, especially up front.

My England Under-21 partner made his debut a couple of years ago and has developed into one of the most exciting prospects for years.

Finally, my forecast for the League Cup Final. High-riding West Ham will give Liverpool a good game, but I don't think they'll win at Wembley.

Liverpool's vast experience, and the fact the League Cup could be all that's left for them this season will be all the motivation they need.

So it's Liverpool for me — but only just. Sorry, cousin Paul!

Due to my personal circumstances I've decided to suspend the column until my future has been decided. I hope to be back soon.





GARY WILLIAMS
Brighton

TON & HOVE A

SHOOT!

Tokyo torment for Forest



Despite having most of the game, Forest were beaten 1-0 by Nacional of Uruguay in the World Club Championship played in Tokyo.



ABOVE . . . Martin O'Neill, Trevor Francis and Ian Wallace cause an anxious moment in the Nacional defence.
BELOW . . . Nacional display the trophy that has never been won by a British club.
RIGHT . . . Man of the Match Waldemar Victorino, who scored the only goal, with his prize: a new Toyota Celica, donated by the sponsors.



LAW'S VERDICT ON MAN. UNITED

DENIS Law has two messages he would like to convey. First of all to the moaners of Manchester: "Don't write off United — they'll come again and win a major trophy."

And secondly to the Press: "Get off Dave Sexton's back."

Scotland's favourite soccer son, still regarded as a saint by everyone at Old Trafford, reckons that present-day United have had a raw deal all-round this season.

"The knocking started about two-and-a-half months ago when United had still lost only two matches all season, and that was unbelievable. Maybe it was typical of the reaction that sets in if United aren't winning everything by the length of a football pitch."

"If you consider that the side has had to do without their most influential midfield player in Ray Wil-



(well mine are!) so the fans ought to get behind the present team.

"I must say that when I first joined United we nearly went down to the Second Division. It was only in the last few games that we managed to escape relegation but the crowd at Manchester United were terrific and they never threw the names of Duncan Edwards, Tommy Taylor, Billy Whelan or Roger Byrne, their old favourites, at us.

"That helped a great deal and the following season we had a good run and finished second in the League.

"What I would like to say to the supporters now is get behind the team and the club, cheer them on

'A winger could bring back the glory'

kins for the best part of six months, and their number one centre-half in Gordon McQueen for virtually the same length of time, I think Dave Sexton ought to be congratulated for keeping the team near the top.

"As I see it, the trouble lies in a communication problem between Dave and the media.

"There's no doubt in my mind that there has been a witch-hunt in the Press — a definite move to get Sexton out — and that was not because of poor results, but purely because the Press weren't getting the co-operation or sort of material they wanted from the manager.

"Anyone who knows Dave Sexton will tell you that he is a nice, quiet man, but one who prefers the company of his family and his immediate workmates. In essence he is shy.

"But shyness is not an excuse for a man to lose his job and his results have not been bad at all in my book.

'Arrangement'

"I think this is where we could learn from the Americans. Most of their big city clubs have a public and Press relations officer, and while that sort of arrangement at Old Trafford might not suit all the journalists, at least they would get a regular news service out of the club if a PRO was appointed.

"Dave Sexton would be able to work hand-in-glove with the man who would be an employee of Manchester United, and he would not have the uneasiness of having to deal with the Press by himself.

"I think more and more people are coming to the conclusion that the managers, secretaries, coaches and players of a football club have to have a closer identity with the Press and the public who pay to see them perform and this would be one way of bridging the gap."

After jumping to Dave Sexton's defence Denis was also quick to

praise the players of United who are often maligned these days and unfortunately compared to Denis himself, Bobby Charlton, George Best and the rest of the great United players of the past.

"I think that is most unfair, because comparisons are always odious and no matter what you say about present-day players, I am sure they are all doing their level best every time they pull on a United shirt. No amount of moaning is going to bring the great players back to Old Trafford. Those who are gone, their limbs are old

because they need you more at a time like this than they do when things are going well and they're winning trophies.

"A lot of lads who stand at the Stretford End now are too young to remember Bobby, Besty and myself anyway, so let those days



Law believes that Garry Birtles will still come good for United.

go. You have to live in the present not the past, and the sooner everyone realises that the better."

Denis believes the Manchester United of 1981 are a much better side than they have been given credit for.

"Dave Sexton has not been able to call on Wilkins and McQueen, so he has had to draft in players like Jovanovic and Duxbury, who are still learning what life is all about in the First Division. They can't do that overnight and the fans will have to be patient.

"People have accused United of not always going for the best players available on the market, but that's not true. They signed Joe Jordan and Gordon McQueen when they were the best in their respective positions in the country.

"They tried to sign Jim Blyth as goalkeeper, and when his back injury ruled out that signing they were lucky to find Gary Bailey in their own dressing room.

"When Ray Wilkins was signed he was regarded as the best mid-field player in the country, and then this season they went out and bought Garry Birtles, who had made a great reputation for himself at Nottingham Forest.

"They were all big signings and it's not Sexton's fault that they haven't all turned out as well as he or the fans would hope.

'Powerful'

"Birtles clearly hasn't been fully fit but I'm convinced that he and Joe Jordan could become a powerful combination, as good as any in the country. I think United might have to sign a natural winger to provide them with the ammunition, and if another midfield player was added to the squad then I believe Manchester United will be back in the business of winning major trophies."

Denis also believes that United have done well to balance the books while recruiting players of the calibre of Birtles, Wilkins etc.

"I saw a comment in one newspaper that Coventry City should have been splashing out money on players rather than building luxury leisure facilities — and that Jimmy Hill should have taken them into the red — and to hell with the consequences.

"What a load of rubbish. That's no way to run any business, and personally I was glad to see Dave Sexton say that before signing Garry Birtles he had to sell to balance the books.

"A lot of people were against Andy Ritchie leaving for Brighton, but I don't think you can expect to have it both ways.

"I have been pleased to see the way young Mike Duxbury has settled into the side. He looks a good player in any position to me, and as United have a reputation of producing youngsters off a conveyor belt, I believe that there'll be a few more on the way who'll help United back to winning honours before long.

"They clearly aren't going to win anything this season, and I'm not trying to pretend everything in the garden is rosy, but with patience, loyal support — and a PRO — I believe Manchester United will again be regarded as the top team in England."

In a season that has had far more downs than ups for me, I was delighted to be called up to play for the European XI against an Italian XI in Rome. The game was organised on behalf of the Italian earthquake victims and as the sole English League representative I felt as if I was representing my country again.

The European XI was selected by West German coach Jupp Derwall and I presume he was impressed by my form in last summer's European Championship Finals.

It was my sort of match. Simply playing alongside so many greats was an honour in itself... Krol, Arconada, so many top names were present. The match was obviously not played at a furious pace or too competitively, so it was ideal preparation for, hopefully, England's next game, the friendly against Spain in a couple of weeks.

It's been said many times that our players lack the skills of the Europeans. I disagree. Glenn Hoddle, for one, can do anything a German or Dutchman can do, and he has to do it very often on poor pitches.

Glenn hasn't quite broken through into the England side yet, but I'm sure he will. At his age, 22, I was a fairly regular choice for England. The circumstances were diffe-

The media can put a lot of pressure on a manager by constantly saying so-and-so should be given a chance. Invariably when the player doesn't live up to expectations the papers say he shouldn't have played!

The England team is not without skills. Kevin Keegan and Trevor Francis are recognised throughout Europe, while Tony Woodcock flies the flag in Cologne. How many better left-backs are there than Kenny Sansom?

Perhaps we won't see any superstars such as Bobby Moore or Bobby Charlton in the near future. Football is more disciplined these days, and while players aren't ruined by coaching, the emphasis is always on team-effort.

Generally speaking I'd say all players can do their own thing on the ball. We are, however, geared to work as a unit.

I remember as a youngster I became a little frustrated by sys-

I like to think I've found a happy medium now, although I was getting in a rut and needed a change of club to rediscover my best form.

It'll be a shot in the arm for our football if Ipswich Town win the double, which I hope they do. They're a fabulous team in every respect, with so many potential goalscorers.

I voted for John Wark as my Player of the Year. It was a toss-up between him and Frans Thijssen. I gave John the vote because at the time he'd scored 28 goals, incredible for a midfielder. I'd have been happy with the eight!

My Young Player was Gary Shaw. I remember the first time I played against him we beat Villa 3-0, but this youngster they had up front

showed a lot of promise. He held the ball well, had bags of confidence and wasn't afraid to have a pop at goal. Gary has fulfilled all his early promise.

No League game for us this week, as we were scheduled to play Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford. Ipswich have the hardest Cup draw of all, but I still fancy them to reach the last four after a replay.

Join me again in a fortnight when I'll be talking about England v Spain.

Ray Wilkins



'Our players as good as Europe's'

rent, though.

Don Revie was virtually starting from scratch and I was lucky enough to get in the team. By the 1982 World Cup Finals I hope Glenn and one or two other young players are more established.

Someone suggested to me that at times players have been chosen for England who aren't worthy of international status. I agree to a certain extent, but I believe the Press has been responsible in a great many cases.

I tended to play too many dangerous passes. I was rightly criticised for giving the ball away too often, but I went too much the other way and started to lay off too many negative passes. John Bond, apparently, once called me Square Balls Wilkins!

RIGHT: "There are not many better left-backs than Kenny Sansom."

BELOW: "Glenn Hoddle has as much skill as any European."



FIVE new young strikers have been drafted into the Czech 22 for their World Cup game with Iceland.

Clearly coach Dr. Jozef Venglos plans to replace Zdenek Nehoda and Marian Masny, who let the team down badly against Wales in Cardiff.

The squad will stay together, barring injury, for all the matches in the spring: Switzerland (Bratislava) on March 24; USSR (at Cheb) on 11th April and Iceland (Bratislava) on May 27th.

'SUNDAY SOCCER'

says Hoeness

ULI HOENESS (below), general manager of Bayern Munich, said in a recent interview that social conditions have changed and that Bundesliga games should be played on Sundays instead of Saturdays, with a three-month break between the middle of December and the middle of March.

"That way," he said, "we would play games in good weather and if the professionals have to do without summer holidays, they are paid well enough to find the sun in mid-winter."



REMEMBER how Spanish club Athletic Bilbao tried to sign Bobby Robson a couple of seasons ago? Well, the Basque club still hasn't abandoned its desire to incorporate the Ipswich boss' training methods into their coaching schemes, and they've now sent Javier Clemente, a member of their training staff, to Portman Road to gain first-hand knowledge of the Suffolk club's methods.

News flashes

● Bayern Munich receive hundreds of requests for friendly matches from teams spread all around West Germany. Most of the clubs they play in pre-season warm up games, for example, are amateurs who pull their best crowd of the season if they meet Bayern. From now on Bayern have decided they will ask for 70 per cent of the receipts from all such friendlies.

● The last time West Germany played Austria they put the match on in Munich to make it a short trip for Austrian fans. But for their World Cup qualifying duel on 29th April, the DFB have announced it will be staged in Hamburg, which is as far away from Austria as the Germans can get.

Prices vary from £1.25

(standing) . . . English F.A. please note . . . and £6 for the best seats.

● The Bulgaria F.A. is allowing their first player a transfer to a Western professional club. Former Golden Boy Christo Bonev, now 33, has signed a contract with AEK Athens.

● Italian team manager Enzo Bearzot completed his half century of matches in the Copa de Oro. Under him Italy have won 30, drawn ten and lost ten.

● Schalke 04 (West Germany) are in desperate financial difficulty, but one fan in Gelsenkirchen recently bought a season ticket for £70 even though as an invalid he cannot attend games. He just wanted to help.

● The Italian Lega Nazionale has published attendance figures for the first half of this season

which compare badly with the previous two years. At the halfway mark in 1977-78 the First Division clubs averaged 34,154 per game; in 1978-79 that figure dropped to an average of 32,858. This season, at the same stage, attendances had dropped to 30,851 on average.

● Spain and Real Madrid veteran Pirri had to receive medical attention after being hit on the head and knocked unconscious by a rock hurled from the main stand after he'd played a decisive role in Mexican club Puebla's valuable 0-0 draw against Atletico Potosino.

● DINO ZOFF celebrated his 39th birthday on 28th February. With 89 full Italian caps, he told the Press he hopes to go on until after the 1982 World Cup and top the Italian record for caps, which stands at 94 to Giacinto Facchetti.

WORLD CUP COMMITTEE IN A MESS



"BARCELONA is a cosmopolitan city with a beating pulse that at the same time jealously keeps its traditions, it has known how to find a mature equilibrium and it is living through a time of fulfilment thanks to the drive of its inhabitants."

NO, it isn't an extract from a bad travel brochure, complete with misprints. It is, in fact, from the second bulletin sent out by the 1982 World Cup committee.

It arrived on my desk a couple of weeks ago, even though it was dated November, 1980. In the same envelope was — a Christmas card.

I'm beginning to have grave doubts about the next World Cup. I have never liked the idea of 24 Finalists, because it will mean more mediocre games, too much travelling and a strain on the organisers. And the Spanish committee don't inspire me with confidence at their ability to get the show on the road.

For over a year I've been receiving various information — 90 per cent of it boring and little to do with football. What annoys me is the way the booklets are written.

Surely it isn't beyond a World Cup organising committee to find someone who can write English properly? The bulletins are littered with spelling errors and bad grammar.

Phrases such as "such is our task; and we are fulfilling it with utmost faith and decision." I've printed that as it was written.

At this rate, we'll all get our accreditations in September, 1982, with our names incorrectly spelt.

Our correspondent in Spain, Graham Turner, has been trying for three years to get the message through to the committee, without success.

I'll go on record and say a South American team will win the 1982 World Cup which, overall, will be a shambles.



ZICO — BRAZIL'S 'UNKNOWN' SUPERSTAR

IN BRAZIL he is the undisputed number one. To the rest of the world Arthur Antunes Coimbra, known simply as Zico, is an enigma. During the 1978 World Cup Finals he hobbled into obscurity after the opening games. In 1980 he found top form, breaking all scoring records with his club Flamengo and scoring equally freely with the national team.

Come the Copa de Oro in Uruguay a few months ago and Zico was again injured, missing another opportunity to enhance his international status.

It is ironic that the player who is tops in Brazil is still not recognised elsewhere as much more than 'some-one who always seems to be injured'.



Zico was back for Brazil for their recent World Cup qualifying ties and is in line for another appearance against England at Wembley in May.

"I try not to think of myself as a superstar," says Zico, whose home is in Rio de Janeiro where football is more of a religion than a sport. "I come from a humble family and I've had to work hard to get where I am now."

"At first I liked the idea of being famous. Little by little it became asphyxiating, restricting and annoying. I can't go out of my house without being surrounded. Some want autographs. Some want to shake my hand. And you'd be surprised at some of the propositions I get!"

"I've always managed to score goals regularly. There's no secret to goalscoring. It's a question of having a certain sort of intuition about the positions you've got to be in at any given moment. Plus a lot of hard work and practice."

"I find I don't get much protection from referees. I remember when we played Argentina and Gallego was provoking me right from the start. He didn't stop until we were both sent-off after half an hour."

Zico earns around £2,000 a week, but there are constant rumours that he will leave Flamengo and join an Italian club.

"Brazilian players are, generally, poorly paid in comparison to others. Okay, I do quite well, but it's only a fraction of what I could earn elsewhere."

"Mind you, some of the figures I've heard mentioned give me goose-pimples. They're totally ridiculous. Whatever happens I want to be in Spain next year to help Brazil win their fourth World Cup. I'll be 29 then and it'll be my last chance."



STOTZ STUMPED

KARL STOTZ (above), manager of Austria's World Cup team, threatened to resign when his plans to take his squad to Israel for a week fell through.

He knew he couldn't have his foreign based stars, but he wanted to take the rest to the Shfaim Kibbutz near Tel Aviv, and had reserved the accommodation.

Then, one by one, the Austrian First Division clubs announced plans to spend that week warming up in Yugoslavia or France, and told the F.A. their internationals would not be available.

South America's best

SOUTH AMERICA'S equivalent of the European Cup, the Copa Libertadores, has been re-scheduled this year, with the opening phase not beginning until July. For the record, here's how the draw turned out:

Group 1: River Plate, Rosario Central (Argentina), At. Junior, Deportivo Cali (Colombia).

Group 2: Wilsterman, The Strongest (Bolivia), Barcelona, Técnico Universitario (Ecuador).

Group 3: Flamengo, At. Mineiro (Brazil), Olimpia, Cerro Porteño (Paraguay).

Group 4: Estudiantes Mérida, Portuguesa (Venezuela), plus two Uruguayan teams.

Group 5: Cobrelao, Universidad de Chile (Chile), Sporting Cristal, Torino (Peru).

The five group winners will be joined by defending Champions Nacional in the later stages to be played in the autumn.

FRANK Arnesen (below), the Danish international star who is currently the midfield general of Ajax, is available at the end of the season for the bargain price of £200,000. The club that offers him the best terms will, no doubt, get him. Amongst those said to be interested are Arsenal, Nottingham Forest, Bayern Munich, FC Cologne and the Cosmos.



SERGINHO, the bad boy of Brazilian soccer, has been severely warned by Brazil's manager Telé Santana and given one more chance to establish himself in the squad.

Telé has made it clear to Serginho that he will not tolerate indiscipline on or off the field and at the first offence Serginho will be out, with no hope of a recall.

Serginho's record in four years is: ten sendings-off; innumerable yellow cards; kicking a linesman and other "lesser" offences; and in those four years, he has collected a total of 20 months suspension and thousands of pounds in fines.

Off the field, Serginho is one of the most generous men in the game; he is known to personally pay for the keep of several youngsters and is known as a Robin Hood to the poor kids who hang around the stadium.

Giants' records go

REAL MADRID'S surprising home defeat by Español came a day after Liverpool's shock home defeat by Leicester, and their 2-1 reverse meant that two of Europe's most impregnable fortresses had been broken down within 24 hours.

Real had been unbeaten in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium since they lost 0-1 to Betis on April 24th, 1977.

In the meantime, they'd played 83 League, Cup and European games without defeat.

And that home defeat means that, barring miracles, Real won't be renewing their Spanish League title this year.

THE STATE OF THE LEAGUES

WEST GERMANY

MARCH 21st is the big day... when Hamburger SV meet Bayern Munich in what could be the Championship decider. Equal on points, and with the slenderest of leads of goal-difference, the Bundesliga is one of the closest for years, even though only two sides are in contention. Tony Woodcock's Cologne are chasing a UEFA Cup spot, despite a poor away record.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HSV	22	15	4	3	51	23	34
Bayern	22	14	6	2	55	29	34
Stuttgart	21	10	6	5	41	29	26
Frankfurt	22	10	6	6	41	35	26
Kaiserslautern	20	10	5	5	38	24	25
Cologne	22	9	6	7	40	34	24

ITALY

LIAM BRADY is still on target to win a Championship medal in his first season in Italy. But just look at the amount of goals scored, or rather, not scored. Of the 16 clubs no less than ten average less than one goal per game.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	18	9	6	3	28	13	24
Roma	18	8	8	2	27	16	24
Juventus	17	7	9	2	23	11	23
Napoli	17	7	7	3	18	13	21
Torino	18	7	6	5	22	17	20

HOLLAND

AZ '67 are breaking all records. After 20 games they had dropped just one point, averaging almost 3.5 goals per game. Ironically, the top scorer was Schapendonk,

who had scored 18 of MVV's 35 goals.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AZ '67	20	19	1	0	68	17	39
Feyenoord	20	14	4	2	41	21	30
FC Utrecht	19	11	4	4	40	21	26
PSV	20	9	5	6	37	21	23
Ajax	19	10	3	6	52	39	23

● PSV's English striker, Teddy Maybank, signed earlier this season, has been forced to quit the game following a knee injury.

SPAIN

REAL MADRID have little hope of retaining their Spanish title — and they may have to do without England winger Laurie Cunningham for the rest of the season. There have been complications following his foot operation earlier this year and a further operation may be necessary. Meanwhile, Atlético Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia battle it out at the top.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At. Madrid	25	14	7	4	40	28	35
Barcelona	25	15	8	2	51	30	33
Valencia	25	13	6	6	47	31	32
Gijón	25	11	8	6	41	27	30
Betis	25	11	7	7	41	27	29

BELGIUM

BAR a major upset, Anderlecht will win the Championship, with Lierse striker Erwin Van den Bergh retaining his goal crown. The winner of last season's Adidas Golden Shoe has 19 goals from 24 games.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	22	18	2	2	43	12	38
Beveren	22	14	4	4	38	18	32
Standard Liege	22	12	5	5	42	27	29
Lokeren	22	12	4	6	45	23	28

'KEEGAN MUST FIGHT BACK TO THE TOP'

— ALLAN SIMONSEN

IF few people were surprised when Karl-Heinz Rummenigge won the European Footballer of the Year Award by a street, one or two eyebrows have been raised at the complete disappearance of previous winners Allan Simonsen and Kevin Keegan from the lists.

SHOOT was in Barcelona to ask the 28-year-old Danish striker for his views on what players must do to win the award, and if he and Kevin have a chance of forcing their way back to the top in the future.

SHOOT: Allan, why do you think that you've disappeared from the European charts?

SIMONSEN: Well, I won the award for my performances with Borussia Mönchengladbach, and since then I've changed to Barcelona. Not that Barcelona are a bad team, but in my first year here I had a lot of difficulties. This is something you should ask Kevin Keegan, because he knows all the problems that come with a change of clubs. The same thing happened to him in his first year in Hamburg.

SHOOT: It seems ironic that your teammate here at Barcelona, Bernd Schuster, should have been elected number two, behind Rummenigge. He wasn't famous as a Cologne player, and he shot to fame with just a couple of games in the European Championship in Italy, didn't he?

SIMONSEN: Yes, this is true. It underlines the fact that for a player it's vitally important to play well for the national team — and in major tournaments where all the international media are watching. But in my opinion the meteoric rise of players like Bernd and even Mario Kempes after a few good games simply reflects the fact that both in Europe and South America there is little to choose between dozens of good players at the moment. Not like ten years ago, when we had several really outstanding figures. I think football has changed — there's a lot more emphasis on running, physique and team-work, and perhaps individual ability has been underrated or even suppressed. The result is that there are maybe 20 players of roughly equal ability in Europe these days, and the various polls must reflect which of them happen to be playing well when the poll is conducted.

SHOOT: In your case, Allan, would you say you are a better or worse player now than when you were the number one in Europe?

SIMONSEN: I'm different! My football has changed since I've been at Barcelona. I've found that it's impossible to play a European style of football here, as I were in Germany, Holland or Belgium. And in the final event, it's easier for me to change to Barcelona's style of play than for the other 24 players to change to mine!

SHOOT: Exactly how have you changed? How would fans on the terraces notice the difference?

SIMONSEN: Basically, I understand my team-mates a lot better. When I first arrived I used to lay-off the ball first touch and race into space on the flanks. But I never got the ball back! Now if you watch me, you'll see that when I receive a ball in midfield, I control it, turn and



run with it a lot more. Now I try to draw defenders and then give a decisive pass to a team-mate.

SHOOT: Do you think that the Copa de Oro in Uruguay proved that South American soccer is superior at the moment?

SIMONSEN: I don't think we should place too much importance on the Mundialito. After all, the Germans and the Dutch were playing during their mid-winter break. And I feel that the teams were all very equal, with just small details deciding the results. I think the same applies to national teams as to individuals — there are a lot at more or less the same level, both in South America and in Europe. Look how Belgium have reached the top with no really outstanding players. England have a lot of ups-and-downs. Maybe France are one of the best teams in Europe at the moment.

SHOOT: So, Allan, what must you and Kevin Keegan do if you're to win back your European crowns?

SIMONSEN: Well, it's going to be difficult. First, you must have success at the club where you're playing — not only the player, but the whole team also. And preferably in a European competition as well. You must play well in the national team against top-class opposition, so that the international Press are aware of your name. It's very difficult. Obviously, I've had problems in Barcelona, and the club itself has had problems — and we've won nothing. With Denmark the permanent problem is that we can never field our full team because most of our top players are with foreign clubs. So we make little impact on the international scene. Kevin has some of the same problems at Southampton, because the club is not in Europe... Having said all that — well I don't want to speak for myself — I'm sure Kevin has the ability to go back to the top, just as other great players have in the past.

● Interview by Graham Turner

THE YOUNG GENERATION— ARE THEY GOOD ENOUGH?

LAZY, happy go lucky, and lacking dedication. That's the verdict on today's young soccer stars from the game's veterans.
The row began when Bristol Rovers boss Terry Cooper, finest English full-back of the last decade,

and still playing at 36-years-old, said: "A young player who can pass a ball accurately has become a rarity. Most of today's apprentices wouldn't have got a look in when I started in soccer."

team-mates — Alan Ball, Emlyn Hughes and Martin Peters, all still playing this season — if they agreed. And Paul Allen of West Ham, and Norwich's Justin Fashanu speak up for the youngsters.



Emlyn Hughes 'EMPTY PARKS'

EMLYN Hughes played 62 times for England, captained Liverpool to the European Cup, and established himself as English soccer's finest ambassador. Only last season he was at Wembley lifting the League Cup aloft with Wolves.

He thinks England's problems begin in the empty local parks.

"I don't see so many young boys out playing football, they've all got different things to do," he says.

"We used to have some great games in the park, and out in the street under the lamp post. Anything up to 15 a side, and it would go on for hours. With that many people playing you had to be good to get anywhere.

"Since then I have always enjoyed training. If I didn't get paid for it I would train anyway.

"But for so many youngsters it seems to be just hard work, instead of something to enjoy. There are a lot of skilful players about — but that's no good unless they work hard. Otherwise their talent is wasted.

"It is very disturbing that there seems to be fewer outstanding youngsters coming through."

Alan Ball 'LACK ENTHUSIASM'



ALAN Ball won a World Cup winner's medal in 1966 — and has gone on running across every inch of the pitch ever since. With 72 England caps, he's now Blackpool's player-manager.

"I learned my football in the playground at Farnworth Grammar School in Bolton," he remembers.

"When lessons ended for the day I was first in the playground with a ball at my feet — and they had to kick me and all the other kids out when they shut the school up for the evening. If you didn't get out of classes quick enough there were too many other kids, and you didn't get a game.

"Now the youngsters have so many other different things to do they don't put in the same amount of time learning the basic skills. They haven't got the enthusiasm for the game.

"It's sad, but there's a whole generation who don't want to work hard. They've had everything given them on a plate, and expect it to stay that way.

"The oldest player, apart from myself, at Blackpool is 23, and I'm extremely fortunate to have some good youngsters."



Martin Peters (dark shirt) in his heyday for England against West Germany in the World Cup Final.

Martin Peters 'MORE EFFORT NEEDED'



MARTIN Peters finally retired from playing this season when he became manager of Sheffield United. His long career had its highlight when he scored for England in the 1966 World Cup Final.

"Sheffield is a city that's football daft, and there's still always kids with a ball at their feet in the parks and on waste ground round here," he says.

"But the youngsters let themselves down when they have a chance of making the grade. So many think they have done everything the moment they become an apprentice.

"We've got young lads who score one goal for the third team and think they have made it. In fact, they are only scratching the surface. There's so much to learn.

"The day will come when clubs will take on only two or three apprentices a year, instead of nine or ten as at the moment. And the only ones who get accepted will be the ones who want to put the effort in.

"Experience is an invaluable commodity, but I'm afraid so many youngsters aren't prepared to listen to advice nowadays."

Paul Allen 'I ENJOY TRAINING'

PAUL Allen of West Ham has sparkling qualifications to speak up for soccer's young generation. At 17 he became the youngest player to appear in an F.A. Cup Final in the victory over Arsenal last season.

"I'll accept that some young players don't do all they should," he says. "But I think what everyone forgets is that there have always been some who worked and some who didn't.

"I'm sure that if Martin Peters or Alan Ball think hard they'll remember talented players who started in the game at the same time as they did, but didn't make the grade because they didn't put in the effort.

"I enjoy training, and like nearly all the other young players at West Ham I put in a lot of extra hours trying to improve my skills. I think it's unfair to accuse all young players of the same crime.

"All youngsters want to make the grade, and we accept hard work is essential."



Justin Fashanu 'THE BEST OF ALL TIME'



JUSTIN Fashanu is 19, has a taste for scoring spectacular goals, and is going places. The burly, black Norwich striker says he wants to make a million out of soccer.

"Nobody will convince me that today's players aren't the best of all time," he says. "I watch films of old matches and the standards are far below today's. But because the overall quality has gone up it is much harder for individuals to stand out.

"As for dedication, I spend a lot of time training to improve my game — and I know other young professionals who are the same. Garth Crooks (below) of Spurs, Aston Villa's Gordon Cowans, and Middlesbrough's Craig Johnston are just three good examples of very dedicated young players.

"Schoolkids have got more to do these days than just play football. That's a fact of life. But I don't think it affects the game's standards. I think 99 per cent of players who join League clubs understand that skill without work rate is wasted, and they are willing to toil for what success they can get."



ASTON VILLA v IPSWICH TOWN... Villa Park ... March 11th

IPSWICH captain Mick Mills is fully aware of the importance of the Villa game, but dismisses all thought of it being a Championship decider. He smiles as he says: "They need to win. And we'll be happy not to lose."

His Villa counterpart Dennis Mortimer says: "A few weeks ago there were half a dozen clubs in with a chance of the title. Now, it's between Ipswich and ourselves."

"I can't even see a team of Liverpool's calibre pulling back the deficit. I must admit, though, that Ipswich are in the driving seat and are favourites."

"Obviously it's vital we beat them, not just for the two points, but their goal-difference is superior and at the end of the day this could be all-important."

Ipswich have beaten Villa twice this season, once in the League and once in the F.A. Cup. Yet Mills says: "They are the best team we've faced."

"People talk about internationals at Ipswich and they say Paul Cooper is the only player never to have won a cap. At Villa it's almost the other way round. Jimmy Rimmer has one England cap and Des Bremner represented Scotland a few years ago."

'Revelation'

"I don't think this will be the case much longer. Dennis Mortimer must be knocking on the door and I wouldn't be surprised if Kenny Swain played himself into the reckoning. He's been a revelation at full-back and must be wishing he'd moved back years ago."

Mortimer has a special word of praise for the Villa fans as the club enters the final straight for the Championship.

"Every game has been like a Cup-tie recently and next week's will be no exception. All our matches seem like sudden-death encounters. The vocal support from our fans has played a big part in our bid for the Championship."

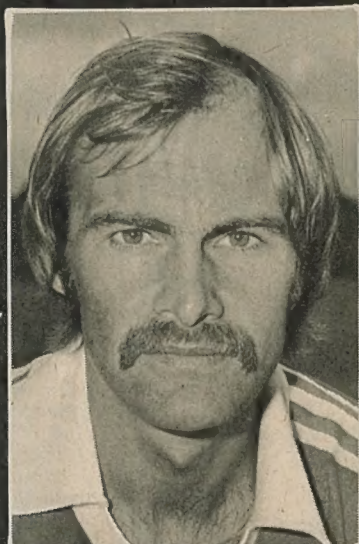
For Ipswich, March could be a make-or-break month. After this week's UEFA Cup trip to St-Etienne, Town face Forest in the F.A. Cup, then Villa, Spurs at home, the return with St-Etienne, then League games against Manchester United and

If Ipswich Town don't have an F.A. Cup replay next week, they will play Aston Villa in a game that could decide the destiny of the Championship. The title race is now between these two fine teams and a full house will be at Villa Park to see the much-awaited clash.



'Ipswich are favourites - it's vital we beat them'

DENNIS MORTIMER



'The only way Villa can win the League is if we slip up'

MICK MILLS

Sunderland. As Arsenal found last season, in the end you can finish with absolutely nothing.

"Villa's defeat in the F.A. Cup must have made them even more determined to win the League," says Mills. "They have the advantage of knowing exactly what their fixtures will be between now and the end of the season."

"Because of our Cup commitments, we've hardly had a free mid-week, but at least we know if we fail in one we have another two to fall back on."

Mills and Mortimer agree that in both the games Ipswich have won, Villa can count themselves a little unfortunate to have lost.

"On both occasions after we'd taken the lead Villa managed to switch up a gear," says the Portman Road skipper. "That's the sign of a good side. The only others I can think of who have done the same at our ground in recent years are Liverpool and Leeds when Don Revie was in charge."

After next week's match both teams will have nine League games remaining. A glance at these fixtures will tell you anything can, and probably will, happen.

Perhaps the most telling comment comes from Mills. "The only way Villa can win the League is if we slip up. We've got our noses in front and we feel we can win the title."

REMAINING GAMES

Villa

Mar 14, Manchester Utd (h)
Mar 21, Spurs (a)
Mar 28, Southampton (h)
Apr 4, Leicester City (a)
Apr 11, West Brom (h)
Apr 18, Nottingham Forest (h)
Apr 20, Stoke (a)
Apr 25, Middlesbrough (h)
May 2, Arsenal (a)

Ipswich

Mar 14, Spurs (h)
Mar 21, Manchester Utd (a)
Mar 28, Sunderland (h)
Apr 4, West Brom (a)
Apr 11, Southampton (h)
Apr 18, Arsenal (h)
Apr 20, Norwich (a)
Apr 25, Man City (h)
May 2, Middlesbrough (a)

Villa defender Allan Evans (left) heads clear from Ipswich dangerman John Wark when the sides met in the F.A. Cup at Portman Road this season.



TERRY McDermott is the British soccer star who turned his back on European football. While the departure of some of our leading players to Europe has hardly become a mass exodus, McDermott, 1980 Footballer of the Year and Players' Player of the Year, has chosen to stay in England.

The Liverpool midfield man admits: "Deep down, I never really wanted to go, and certainly didn't fancy leaving Liverpool. I think you have got to be a certain type of person to play abroad. You must not mind leaving England and working in strange surroundings. You've got to be adaptable and must be prepared to put up with some teething troubles, like Kevin Keegan had in Hamburg.

'Suited'

"Quite frankly, I just decided all that wasn't for me. I'm not sure my game would have suited foreign football styles."

So McDermott worked out a solution to his contract problems with the Merseyside club. "We came to an agreement which was acceptable to the club and myself," he says. "It involves something at the end of the two year spell I've signed for, so I'm perfectly happy to forget all about it now. It's past and I'm glad it's

been resolved in the way I always wanted."

McDermott says he would have gone to the United States before Europe, if he had left Britain. "I think it's probably my kind of life over there," he says. "I'm easy going and I could see myself adapting to life in California or somewhere similar.

"But the football standard isn't that high in America, so I've got the best of both worlds now I've decided to stay with Liverpool."

McDermott now has "the little bit of security," he always wanted at the end of his new two and a half year contract. What he does then is anyone's guess. He isn't thinking that far ahead.

Ironically, soon after he'd signed a fresh contract tying him to Anfield, Liverpool ran into their worst spell of the season. Bob Paisley's men were knocked out of

the F.A. Cup by local rivals Everton and then the unthinkable happened — relegation haunted Leicester became the first team to win at Anfield in 86 matches.

"Those two results shook us," admits McDermott. "But you couldn't say we hadn't known it was coming. We haven't really played well all season and it has been building up. Clubs get seasons like this from time to time — even Liverpool.

"The trouble was, the media built us up as super human and NEVER expected us to lose. We never believed we were, but a lot of people start to believe what they read after a while.

"This season, we've had five or six players having poor spells. It doesn't matter so much when one or two of you are off form — the others can help you through. But when half the side is struggling,

McDERMOTT STAYING AT LIVERPOOL

you run into trouble and that's what's happened to us.

"I've had a terrible season and I know it. I have lost confidence, too, and that doesn't help. But we've got the belief in ourselves to bounce back and that is the important thing."

McDermott was finally dropped by Bob Paisley for the League match at W.B.A. in early February. It was the first time he had missed a game all season — yet others were nowhere near as lengthy servants. Players such as Ray Kennedy, Phil Thompson, Avi Cohen, Alan Kennedy, Kenny Dalglish and others were bothered by injuries. Suddenly, super efficient, consistent Liverpool, lucky for so many seasons in not getting many long term injuries, were disrupted by absentees — and the strain was showing.

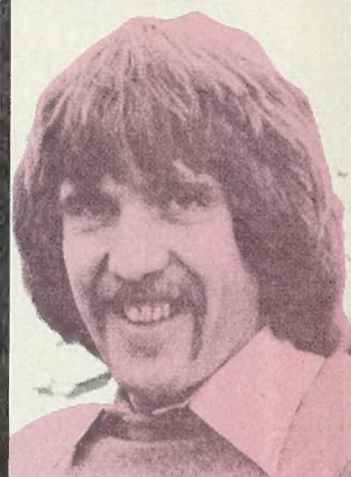
But McDermott added: "It was unfortunate our really poor spell has come quite late in the season. January and February is the time when you are looking to drive on hard towards the titles. But we will be back, anyone will tell you that. A few defeats won't mean anything to Liverpool — except strengthen our resolve to fight back."



McDermott was relegated to the sub's bench for the game at W.B.A.

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FOCUS ON

PAUL POWER

Manchester City



FULL NAME: Paul Christopher Power
BIRTHPLACE: Manchester
BIRTHDATE: October 30, 1953
HEIGHT: 5ft 10½ins
WEIGHT: 11st 6lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: No
CAR: Ford Escort Ghia 1600
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Manchester Evening News
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Any player who has passed to me when I score
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Steve Mackenzie
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Aston Villa
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Colin Bell
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Squash and table tennis
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Liverpool's Jimmy Case
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: UEFA Cup 2-2 draw with AC Milan at the San Siro
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not playing in the 1976 League Cup Final v Newcastle
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Newcastle
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Steak Diane and dry white wine
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Good TV programmes and films/Cheeky kids and bad mannered people
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Eddie Large and Penelope Keith
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Reading and relaxing
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Carly Simon
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: These days I always go out to celebrate
BEST FRIEND: Stan Hardcastle, a solicitor in Huddersfield
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Mr Denny Howells, my sportsmaster at school
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None
PERSONAL AMBITION: To lift a trophy as captain of City
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Solicitor
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The person who could make me a millionaire overnight

SHOOT!